



# Pre-Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for FY25 COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

Overview and Eligibility.....	1
Application Process and Requirements .....	4
Allowable Activities and Costs .....	6
Contact Information and Resources .....	8
Other DOJ Funding for Improving School Security .....	9

## Overview and Eligibility

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### Q. What is the purpose of School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) funding?

- A. SVPP is a competitive grant program designed to provide funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the recipient’s jurisdiction through evidence-based school safety programs. SVPP funding may be used for the following purpose areas:
- Coordination with local law enforcement
  - Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence against others and self
  - Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
  - Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency
  - Any other measure that, in the determination of the director of the COPS Office, may provide a significant improvement in security

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### Q. What is meant by evidence-based school safety programs?

- A. The term “evidence-based” means a program, practice, technology, or equipment that meets one of the following criteria:
- Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on one of the following:
    - Strong evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
    - Moderate evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study;

- Promising evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias;
- Demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such program, practice, technology, or equipment is likely to improve relevant outcomes and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program, practice, technology, or equipment.
- In the case of technology or equipment, demonstrates that use of the technology or equipment is consistent with best practices for school security, including
  - applicable standards for school security established by a Federal or state government agency;
  - findings and recommendations of public commissions and task forces established to make recommendations or set standards for school security;
  - compliant with all applicable codes, including building and life safety codes.

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**Q. Who is eligible to apply for funding?**

A. The following entities are eligible to apply under this program:

- States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and their public agencies, including the following:
  - School districts, including public charter school districts and school districts with a single school
  - School boards
  - Law enforcement agencies

Note: Individual schools not operating as school districts and independent schools and private schools, including private charter schools are NOT eligible to apply as primary applicants.

Applications should demonstrate a comprehensive approach to school safety.

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**Q. Are there eligibility factors in addition to entity type?**

A. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. §§ 10552(a)(1)–(2), each application shall be accompanied by an assurance that the application was prepared after consultation with individuals not limited to law enforcement officers (including licensed mental health professionals, social workers, students, parents, school violence researchers/academics (if practical), teachers, principals, and other school personnel) to ensure that the improvements to be funded under the grant are

- consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence including being protective of student privacy and ensuring that students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex, and
- individualized to the needs of each school at which those improvements are to be made.

As part of your application, your agency will be required to answer questions directly related to this statutory assurance. Applicants that do not provide this assurance will be deemed ineligible.

In addition, state and local governmental entities must comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, which provides that state and local government entities may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, receiving from, maintaining, or exchanging information regarding citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual with components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any other federal, state or local government entity. This includes any prohibitions or restrictions imposed or established by a state or local government entity or official. For additional information, please see the appendices in the [FY25 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#).

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**Q. May a group of agencies (units of local government and their corresponding school districts) apply as a consortium?**

- A. Consortia are not eligible to apply. Cities and municipalities are encouraged to partner and work together with one single applicant applying as the prime applicant. Units of local government may also be listed as subrecipients.

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**Q. Can an agency with an existing SVPP grant apply again this year for a different project?**

- A. Yes, SVPP is an open funding opportunity, and previously funded applicants are not restricted from submitting an application.

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**Q. How long is the award period for SVPP?**

- A. SVPP is a three-year (36-month) award program with an opportunity for a no-cost time extension. Budget requests must not exceed this three-year period.

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**Q. Is there a cost share or matching funds requirement?**

- A. Yes, there is a local cost share or matching funds requirement of least 25 percent. The local cost share or matching funds must be in the form of cash and must be paid during the award period. See the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for the list of sources for which cash match may be applied.

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**Q. Am I able to apply for a waiver of the local cost share or matching funds requirement under SVPP?**

- A. Yes. Applicants may request a waiver in the online application. The COPS Office may waive the 25 percent local cost share or matching funds requirement in the case of a recipient with a demonstrated severe financial need. During the application process, your agency's waiver request will be evaluated based on the availability of funding, a demonstration of severe financial need as reflected through the fiscal health data section of this application, and a comparison of your fiscal health data with that of the overall applicant pool. Local cost share or matching funds waivers will be limited, so all applicants should plan their budgets with at least a 25 percent local cost share or matching funds included.

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**Q. Is there a nonsupplanting requirement for this program?**

A. No. SVPP does not have a nonsupplanting requirement.

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**Q. What is the formula for disbursing SVPP award funds?**

A. SVPP is not a “formula” award program. All applications will be reviewed based on their answers to the background information questions, questions to determine need for improved security and for federal assistance, submitted project and budget narratives, and other relevant factors determined by the COPS Office. Awards are made on a competitive basis.

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**Q. What is the maximum amount to be awarded per award?**

A. Each award will be capped at \$500,000 in federal funds, and approximately \$1,000,000 of the available funding will be reserved for microgrants for school districts, including rural, tribal, and low-resourced schools. Microgrant award requests must be for \$100,000 or less. Consideration for microgrant funding does not exclude your agency from other non-microgrant SVPP funding.

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**Q. How much funding is anticipated to be awarded under SVPP and how many awards does the COPS Office expect to make under SVPP in FY25?**

A. Up to \$73,000,000 is anticipated to be awarded under SVPP, with 200 awards anticipated in FY25.

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**Q. When will SVPP awards be announced?**

A. It is anticipated that awards will be announced on or after September 30, 2025. Any public announcements will be posted on the COPS Office website.

## **Application Process and Requirements**

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**Q. What is the application process?**

A. SVPP applications are a two-part process. Applicants will submit the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov and the full application, including attachments, and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SFLL), if applicable, in JustGrants. For further guidance and resources, read the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) document carefully, access the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#), and see the [JustGrants Application Submission training page](#).

Note: Active registration with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) database is required to register for Grants.gov. Go to <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration> for additional information.

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**Q. What am I required to submit in the application?**

A. In addition to the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) submitted in Grants.gov, applicants will be required to submit the application in JustGrants that consists of a series of questions and a budget worksheet with accompanying narrative justifications, and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), if applicable.

The complete list of questions and required and optional attachments is located at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>. Applicants are encouraged to read through the online application questions in advance to ensure sufficient time to prepare answers to the questions.

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**Q. When are applications due under SVPP?**

- A. Applicants are urged to begin the application process in Grants.gov as soon as your agency believes it will apply for SVPP funding.

The Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) must be submitted in Grants.gov by 4:59 p.m. ET on June 18, 2025.

Complete application packages are due in JustGrants by 4:59 p.m. ET on June 26, 2025.

Note: Hard copy or emailed applications will not be accepted.

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**Q. Should any documents be printed in preparation to complete the SVPP application?**

- A. Hard copy applications are not accepted. However, applicants may print the NOFO to review the NOFO and required questions and, if applicable, the attachments. A PDF version of the NOFO and application questions may be found on the SVPP page.

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**Q. Is SVPP subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs?**

- A. Yes. SVPP is subject to E.O. 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, which requires applicants from state and local units of government or other organizations providing services within a state to submit a copy of the application to the state single point of contact (SPOC) if one exists and if the program has been selected for review. Applicants must contact their state SPOCs to determine whether their programs have been selected for state review. The applicant should enter the date that the application was sent to the SPOC or the reason such submission is not required in the section of the SF 424 that refers to EO 12372.

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**Q. When is a letter of support required?**

- A. Letters of support are required from major partners and other significant stakeholders when a proposed project involves coordination with another jurisdiction or agency (city, county, law enforcement agency, school district, etc.).

For example: A law enforcement agency submits a proposal for officer training to prevent violence at local schools. The affected local school district would be considered a major partner. The law enforcement agency applicant would be required to submit a letter of support from the affected school district confirming the district's planned involvement and support of the project.

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**Q. Are letters of support required only from partner organizations? Can we submit letters from parents, teachers, etc. expressing support for the project?**

- A. Letters of support are required from partner agencies when a proposed project involves coordination with another jurisdiction or agency (city, county, law enforcement agency, school district, etc.). Support letters from other stakeholders may also be uploaded with the application. Please consider limiting the number of additional letters to no more than five.

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**Q. Is there a memorandum of understanding (MOU) requirement under this program?**

- A. No. While the COPS Office encourages applicants to develop partnerships with key stakeholders for the purposes of the application, an MOU is not required. However, Letters of Support are required from major partners and other significant stakeholders when a proposed project involves coordination with another jurisdiction or agency (see previous questions re: Letters of Support).

## **Allowable Activities and Costs**

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**Q. What may my agency request funding for under the SVPP award program?**

- A. Agencies may request funding for costs related to the SVPP project and support one of the authorized purpose areas under Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018, 34 U.S.C. § 10551(b)(5)–(9), which may include costs for the following:

- **Coordination**
- **Civilian/non-sworn Personnel (salaries and benefits).** Please note that civilian personnel hired under the SVPP must function in a role directly related to SVPP. Examples of allowable personnel may include school safety coordinators, project coordinators, project managers, technology managers, emergency management coordinators, or trainers).
- **Equipment:** Entry control equipment, school site alarm and protection systems.
- **Technology:** Communication technology, emergency alerts, identification technology, laptops, maps of schools and bus routes, printers, social media monitoring, tracking systems, and video surveillance technology.
- **Supplies:** Manuals, paper, pens, and postage.
- **Travel/training** for law enforcement officers to prevent school violence against others and self.
- **Contracts and Subawards**
- **Consultants**
- **Other Costs:** Allowable overtime for civilian personnel that are directly linked to SVPP, other office supplies not already listed.

Please refer to the FY25 SVPP Application Resource Guide at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp> for a nonexhaustive list of allowable and unallowable costs. All budget items are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

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**Q. What types of civilian personnel may be requested under SVPP?**

- A.** Examples of civilian positions that may be hired under SVPP are school safety coordinators, project coordinators or project managers, technology managers, emergency management coordinators, and trainers.

Examples of positions that may not be hired or funded under SVPP are teachers, substitute teachers, administrators, social workers, and counselors.

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**Q. May we request school resource officer (SRO) positions?**

- A.** No. SRO positions are not allowable under SVPP. Applicants seeking to hire school resource officers may apply under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP).

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**Q. May we request funding for security officers?**

- A.** No. Security officers are not allowable under SVPP.

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**Q. Can SVPP funds be used to improve security at institutions of higher learning (community colleges, universities, etc.) that provide facilities or services to K–12 students?**

- A.** Generally, no. SVPP funds are expressly intended to improve security at K–12 schools and on school grounds. Requests involving institutions of higher learning may be considered in certain cases where K–12 students regularly attend classes in a structure or facility exclusively designated for K–12 students. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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**Q. What fringe benefits are allowable?**

- A.** In addition to Social Security, Medicare, health insurance, life insurance, vacation, sick leave, retirement, worker’s compensation, and unemployment insurance, the following are allowable fringe benefits: (1) dental insurance, (2) vision insurance, (3) prescription drugs, (4) holiday pay, (5) disability insurance, (6) accidental death and disability, (7) 401(k) plan, (8) liability insurance, (9) shift differential payments, (10) accident insurance, (11) bonding insurance, (12) Police Trust–funded retirement system, (14) professional liability insurance, (15) Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) tax, and (16) survivor benefit. Other benefits, such as severance pay, hazard pay, etc., are not allowed.

The COPS Office will not pay for any fringe benefits not listed, and if your agency pays those benefits for locally funded positions, your agency will be required to do so for SVPP-funded positions with local funds. **Please note: If sick leave and/or vacation leave costs are already reflected in the base salary figure provided, please DO NOT also list these costs individually under fringe benefits.**

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**Q. Are fringe benefits allowable for requested overtime costs?**

- A.** Yes, but the only fringe benefits allowable for requested overtime compensation are Social Security, Medicare, FICA, worker’s compensation, and unemployment insurance. The COPS Office will not pay for any other fringe benefits for requested overtime costs. If your agency pays for additional benefits for overtime, then your agency will be required to do so with local funds.

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**Q. How do I determine the health care and fringe benefits costs for my agency?**

**A.** An agency should contact its human resources / benefits office to help determine their costs for healthcare and fringe benefits.

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**Q. Are indirect costs allowable under SVPP?**

**A.** No, indirect costs are not allowable under SVPP.

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**Q. Are subawards allowed under SVPP?**

**A.** Yes, eligible applicants may use award funds to contract with or make one or more subawards to one or more of the following: local educational agencies, nonprofit organizations excluding schools, or units of local government or tribal organizations.

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**Q. Can the award pay for equipment, technology, or services implemented prior to receiving a grant award?**

**A.** No. SVPP award funds may only cover costs incurred on or after the award start date.

## Contact Information and Resources

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**Q. Who can I contact for assistance with Grants.gov?**

**A.** For technical assistance with submitting the Application for Federal Assistance, Standard Form 424 (SF-424), please call the Grants.gov customer service hotline at 800-518-4726, send questions via email to [support@Grants.gov](mailto:support@Grants.gov), or consult the [Grants.gov Organization Applicant User Guide](#). The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

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**Q. Who can I contact for assistance with JustGrants?**

**A.** For technical support with the Justice Grants System (JustGrants) application, please contact JustGrants Support at [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or 833-872-5175. JustGrants Support operates Monday through Friday between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) and Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. Training on JustGrants can also be found at <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training-resources>.

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**Q. Who can I contact for programmatic assistance with the requirements of SVPP?**

**A.** For programmatic assistance with the requirements of this program, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or send questions via email to [AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov). The COPS Office Response Center operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET, except on federal holidays.

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**Q. Is the list of anticipated FY25 SVPP award conditions and requirements available online?**

**A.** Yes. See the FY25 SVPP Application Resource Guide at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>.



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**Q. Does the COPS Office have a website that contains application resources, fact sheets, and instructions?**

**A.** Yes. See [www.cops.gov/svpp](http://www.cops.gov/svpp). In addition, see <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training-resources>.

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**Q. How do I stay up to date on other COPS Office funding opportunities?**

**A.** COPS Office funding opportunities are posted at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants>. To receive notifications on funding opportunities and announcements, [subscribe to GovDelivery](#) email updates.

## Other DOJ Funding for Improving School Security

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**Q. What other DOJ components provide funding for improving school security?**

**A.** Both the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) and the [Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) offer grants to improve security within our nation's schools and on school grounds through evidence based-programs.

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**Q. Are there activities that are unallowable under the COPS Office SVPP that are allowable under BJA or OJJDP programs?**

**A.** Yes. The following initiatives are unallowable under the COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program; however, funding for these projects may be available through BJA's funding opportunities, as authorized purpose areas under the STOP School Violence Act of 2018, 34 U.S.C. § 10551(b)(1)–(4):

- Training school personnel and students to prevent student violence against others and self
- The development and operation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and websites
- The development and operation of school threat assessment and intervention teams that may include coordination with law enforcement agencies and school personnel
- Specialized training for school officials in responding to mental health crises
- Any other measure that, in the determination of the BJA Director, may provide a significant improvement in training, threat assessments and reporting, and violence prevention

Funding may also be available under the OJJDP Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence program.

**NOTE:** Under the STOP School Violence Act, COPS Office funds cannot be used for the purchase of budget items in the above purpose areas. Applicants interested in the BJA-specific initiatives should see the Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP NOFO. **Duplicate applications should not be submitted to both COPS and BJA or COPS and OJJDP.**