



Stronger Connections Grant

SY2023-2024

Requests for Applications

(RfA)

Safe and Healthy Schools Bureau

Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Funds

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is requesting applications for funding that will support school districts with implementing a district-wide emergency response/communications system.

State Educational Agencies (SEAs) have been awarded federal funding from the Bipartisan Safe Communities Act (BSCA). This act was passed as an important step toward reducing the risk of gun violence in our schools and communities and in helping support the mental health and well-being of our school systems. These funds are distributed under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA). The grant's intent is to establish safe and healthier learning environments and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities.

The State of New Mexico has received (\$7,300,727.20) to provide competitive subgrants to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs). These funds are under section 4108 of the ESEA.

Eligible applicants: LEAs that meet New Mexico's definition of "high-need"-- having a high rate of poverty (minimum 40% Free and Reduced Lunch rate) AND with one or more of the following characteristics:

- A. A high ratio of students to mental health professionals.
- B. A high rate of chronic absenteeism; exclusionary discipline; school violence, bullying, substance abuse.
- C. Students recently experienced a natural disaster or traumatic event.

Priority awarded to the following:

- A. LEA has 40% or greater Free and Reduced Lunch rate.
- B. LEA currently does not have an emergency response/communications system.
- C. LEA is defined as "Rural" with a total K-12 enrollment of 600 students or less

Application Timeline

Release of Application.....	August 17, 2023
Deadline to Submit Application.....	September 28, 2023
Review of Applications _____	Sept. 29—Oct. 6, 2023
Notice of Award—Successful applicants will be notified on Oct. 10, 2023	
Period of Award—Total awarded funds to be spent by 9/30/2026	

Application can be downloaded from the following website:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QDBqjPw5Veb9sT4vy2xC7JyYI6vLpD9E/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104522473504028717144&rtpof=true&sd=true>