



COLORADO

School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program

Potential Applicants Webinar

April 9, 2025



COLORADO
Department of Public Safety

Agenda

- Welcome
 - Please ensure that your mic is muted
 - Please put your name and agency in the chat
 - The chat will be monitored for questions
- Intro to Office of School Safety (OSS) Grants Unit
- SAFER Grant Program Overview
- Commitments to the grant
- Application
- Questions
- Closing



Intro to Office of School Safety

Vision

The Office of School Safety provides Colorado schools and communities with the tools and resources to create safe and positive school environments for all Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

Mission

The three units of the Office of School Safety support Colorado schools with the School Safety Resource Center providing resources, consultation, training, and technical assistance, the Crisis Response Unit training school personnel in responding to critical incidents and assisting when called upon and the Grants Unit researching and managing grant opportunities for schools.

- Created through SB23-241 and approved by Governor April 27- 2023.
- 1st Fiscal year began July 2024
- The SAFER grant program was transferred from Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) to OSS.

The OSS Grants unit

The Grants Unit is established in the Office of School Safety to manage available school safety grant funding from state and federal authorities and provide grant training and consultation to schools across Colorado.

Charli North
Grant Manager

Chamone Jones
Grant Analyst

The OSS is the sole point of contact concerning these funds and all communications must be made through the Office of School Safety.



About the Grant

- Thank you for your interest in the SAFER Grant program. The School Access for Emergency Response program (SAFER) originally enacted by [SB18-158](#) provides funding for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance and training to allow for seamless communications between existing school communications systems and first responder communications systems.
- \$4,850,000 of funding is available to eligible applicants.

Purpose of Funding

1. Implement an interoperable technology solution to provide or to upgrade the following:
 - A system or technology that can be activated and deactivated by the public safety 911 answering point, the network, administrator, and the school, using both the radio system and other communications networks;
 - for Radio and other technology bridge ability that is not radio vendor- specific for connecting independent school networks across the school district and public safety networks in the regions; and
 - An interoperability solution that operates over radio networks and other communications networks;
2. To maintain or improve a school's existing interoperable communication hardware or software or to provide interoperable communication hardware and/or software to a school that does not yet have it; and
3. For any necessary radio system capacity expansions where school loading has been determined to have significant impact on public safety system loading.

Allowable Expenses

- Interoperable communication hardware (not used for day to day operations)
- Interoperable communication Software (not used for day to day operations)
- Equipment maintenance
- Training to allow for seamless communications between new or existing school communications and first responder communications systems

****Administrative and Personnel fees are not allowed on the SAFER grant.**

Eligible Participants

- Schools- district/public schools/charter schools/board of cooperative services)
- Public safety communications system owners
- Private schools are not eligible for this grant.

Grant Life Cycle

The SAFER Grant Program has a one year grant life Cycle



COMMITMENT TO THE GRANT

REPORTING

Progress reporting is a requirement of the grant. Progress reports are due quarterly, 30 days after the end of the calendar reporting period, as shown in the table below.

Quarterly Reporting	Spending begins	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q4	Spending deadline	Final Report
Due dates	July 1, 2025	April 30	July 30	October 30	January 30	June 30, 2026	July 15, 2026
Reporting Period		Jan- March	April- June	July- Sept	Oct- Dec		

From inception of your Small Dollar Grant Agreement (SDGA), Progress Reporting begins, no matter where it falls in the table below. For example, if you have your SDGA effective July 1st - your first progress report is due October 31st.

COMMITMENT TO THE GRANT

REPORTING

The progress reports consists of two (2) sections, the narrative information and the financial updates. These reports keeps the Office of School Safety (OSS) informed with current information on your grant. The report requires original or dated electronic signatures from your organization's authorized representative.

Narrative Information:

- Captures significant activity completed during the quarter.
- Identifies challenges/issues within the project
- Identifies any technical assistance needed from the OSS (note in the progress report if there were no expenses and why.

Financial Updates:

- Identifies expenditures to date.
- Reported expenditures are broken down by project and solution area.

Applications

Applications & Resources

Applications: There are three different application templates for this grant.

- SAFER Grant Program Application- Schools
- SAFER Grant Program Application- BOCES and School District
- SAFER Grant Program Application- Public Safety Communications Systems Owners

Resources

- [Application Guide Book](#)
- [Applications](#)
- [SB18-158](#)
- [SB23-241](#)

General Instructions

Read your Guidebook before you complete the application

- Ensure that all requested information is accurate, clearly written, and directly related to the grant's objectives.
- Double check all budget calculations to ensure consistency across all budget related sections.
- Any incomplete or incorrect applications may be subject to rejection.
- Please follow the instructions listed in the sections and questions.
- Late (applications and application documents received after May 13, 2025, 5:00PM) or incomplete submissions will not be eligible for consideration

Applications

- [SAFER Grant Program Application- Schools](#)

Single Schools: Complete this application if you are applying for one School

- [SAFER Grant Program Application- BOCES and School District](#)

BOCES Applicants: If you are a BOCES serving multiple districts, it is not necessary to list the schools individually. Please list each district's project budget. When listing, please clearly identify how many schools within each district are included in the district's projected budget.

School Districts and multi-campus schools Applicants: If the prospective project will serve multiple schools within a single district, or multiple campuses under one organization's name, each school's project budget is required to be listed separately.

- [SAFER Grant Program Application- Public Safety Communications Systems Owners \(PSCSO\)](#)

PSCSO Applicants : Complete this application if you are applying on behalf of a Public Safety Communications Network owners

MOU & EOP Requirements

- Must be signed by the school district administrator and the 911 authority/owner at a minimum, if this is also your local Law Enforcement agency that is great.
- If other supporting agencies can/will sign, this shows the evaluators that you have buy in from the entire community and the program will likely have greater long term sustainability. Examples include local fire, EMS and EM
- Your EOP should be up to date, within the last 3 years and built for your school. All contacts and rosters should be updated as well.
- In kind contributions are strongly recommended, i.e training, resources, staffing. Show the evaluators that the requestors have some buy in to the project and that they truly understand the project they are embarking on with this grant.
- The MOU must reference SAFER and the Legislation that created it

Cloud Connected Communication System Requirements

'Cloud Connected' Communications and 'cloud connected' silent communications are tools that provide broadcast and two-way communication between the classroom and emergency responder system. These systems with proper configuration communicate with emergency responders and allow a two-way dissemination of information. Due to the broad scope of 'Cloud Connected' Communications software and the inoperability being based solely on the systems configuration, there are additional items needed at the time of application for the system to be considered for funding.

1. An implementation proposal.
2. Only the communication and training related to the communications portion of the services and/or goods are an allowable expense on the SAFER grant.
3. You must include a separate MOU specifically for the use of the 'cloud connected' communications system specifying duties and functions of all parties.
4. Quote and configuration proposals.

Risk Assessment

The Self-Risk Assessment Tool is a critical component of the SAFER Grant Program, helping to ensure responsible financial stewardship of grant funds. Applicants should complete this assessment thoroughly to demonstrate their capability to manage grant funding efficiently.

There are two sections:

1. Applicant Information (Section A)
2. Assessment Tool (Section B)
 - a. For each question, select Yes, No, or N/A from the drop-down menu
 - b. Each “Yes” response earns one point, while “ No” or “N/A” responses receive 0 points
 - c. Use the comments column to provide explanation or additional context where needed Scoring and Risk Level

Score less than 4 Risk =Level High risk (Red)

Score 4-11 = Medium risk (Yellow)

Score 11+ = Low risk (Green)

Application Requirements

- Completed and correct application submitted by **May 13, 2025** by **5:00 MST**
 - **Excel version** of application must be submitted solely or in addition to a PDF version
 - Signature Page- Must contain physical signature or certified signature with time stamps included
 - [W-9](#)
 - EOP
 - MOU
 - UEI- SAMS.GOV
 - Cloud Connected Communication System Implementation Plan and Configuration Plan (If Applicable)



APPLICATION SUBMISSION

All applications must be submitted to the following email address.

CDPS_OSS_Safer@state.co.us

Application Deadline

[May 13, 2025, 5:00 PM MST](#)

Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

The application and application handbook are located online

[FY2026 SAFER Request for Proposal](#)

Grant Pre-Award Timeline

- Announcement Released: March 31, 2025
- Potential Applicant Webinar Session 1 April 9, 2025 10:30AM
- Potential Applicant Webinar Session 2 April 14, 2025 11:30AM
- Potential Applicant Q&A Drop-In: Apr 23, 2025
- Application Deadline: May 13, 2025, 5:00PM
- Application Review Period: May 19, 2025- June 6, 2025
- Notice of Funding Recommendations: Jun 10, 2025, 5:00PM
- Request for Reconsiderations: June 17, 2025, 5:00PM

Thank you!

SAFER Email: cdps_oss_safer@state.co.us

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Questions?