



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary
Richard Rydecki, Division Administrator

State Violence Prevention Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

January 5, 2026

Program Summary

The purpose of this Program is to provide funding to support, replicate, and expand effective, evidence-based or evidence-informed violence reduction initiatives, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by violence. The State, as represented by the Department of Administration (DOA), intends to use the results of this Grant Announcement to establish one or more Grant Agreements. DOA intends to award up to \$10,000,000.00 in grants through this Announcement. Funding for this assistance is provided to Wisconsin by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Prior to contacting OVP, please consult the Grant Announcement, Grant Application and this Question and Answer document available on the [Program Website](#).

U.S. Department of the Treasury American Rescue Plan Act guidance can be found [here](#).

FOR ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

DOA will execute grant agreements with successful applicants only after DOA determines that expenses included in an application are reasonably consistent with guidance from the US Department of Treasury for use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act requirements, and Program provisions. DOA's execution of grant agreements, however, is not dispositive as to whether any particular cost meets the criteria. Applicants retain responsibility for demonstrating eligibility of expenses and are required to hold DOA harmless for any audit disallowance related to the eligibility of costs, including repayment of ineligible amounts.

FOR ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Each applicant is required to determine its eligibility based on program requirements provided in the Grant Announcement. DOA will answer questions seeking clarification of eligibility requirements. DOA will determine applicant eligibility only as a routine matter during the application review process after the application deadline has passed. Applicants should carefully review Section 4. Eligibility Requirements of the Grant Announcement prior to applying.

Please note that the Grant Announcement, Application Instructions, and Application forms have been updated to clarify the circumstances under which the applicant organization is required to be registered with the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and designated the status of "restored to good standing," "incorporated/qualified/registered," "organized," or "registered". Please carefully review the DFI registration requirement updates, including but not limited to the indication of entity types for which DFI filing is required.

Contents

State Violence Prevention Grant Program	1
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers	1
Applicant Logistics.....	2
Application Attachments	2
Application Categories	2
Application Review	3
Budget.....	4
Narrative	4
Financial Capability Questionnaire	5
Eligible Applicants	5
Eligible Activities and Services	6
Eligible Expenses	7
Expense Period/Grant Period	7
Indirect.....	8
Post-Award Information	8
Reporting	8

Applicant Logistics

Application Attachments

1. Based on the submission format/platform, can you please share if there is an opportunity to submit or reference any visuals (graphs, etc.) or will we need to simply narrate supporting data?

Response: An option in DocuSign was added on January 2, 2026, for applicants to attach an additional optional document if needed to provide visuals to support the reviewer's understanding of the applicant's experience or capacity to complete eligible activities in the performance period. However, any submission beyond the first two (2) pages will not be reviewed. Please also note that other supporting documents such as letters of support are not required and will not influence scoring.

Application Categories

2. Would you recommend applying for each eligible category or focusing on a specific area for the strongest application?

Response: Applicants should focus on proposing services and programming that they can reasonably expect to carry out in the grant period and for which they have the best ability to demonstrate the capacity to perform.

3. Can the same organization submit more than one application or different applications within the separate categories?

Response: Yes, if applicants are interested and eligible to apply for multiple categories, the applicant must submit a separate application for each category. There is no restriction on the number of applications the applicant may submit; however the applicant must have the capacity to perform all proposed work within the grant period.

4. Can programs that utilize evidence-informed approaches also apply under "evidence-based violence intervention and outreach programs?"

Response: Yes, organizations using evidence-informed approaches may also apply under Category B: Evidence-Based or Evidence Informed Violence Intervention and Outreach Programs. "Evidence-informed" approaches have been added to Category Activities Examples under Section 6.0 Narrative in the Grant Announcement.

5. What is the best category for afterschool programs to apply - under Evidence-Based or School-Based?

Response: Per Section 6.0 Narrative - Category Activities Examples in the Grant Announcement, Category E - School-Based Programming could include activities such as after- and out-of-school programming. However, the applicant with afterschool program activities can apply to a category other than Category E, if they find that their proposed programming or services are more accurately represented under another program category (see example category activities under Section 6.0 Narrative in the Grant Announcement).

Application Review

6. Do you have a specific number of grants you are hoping to give out?

Response: There is no set number of grants that will be awarded. The Department will award a total number of grants not to exceed a total budget of \$10 million to applicants with the greatest capacity to advance the goals of the grant and that have the ability to successfully expend the funding on eligible costs in the grant period and before December 31, 2026.

7. Regarding the review and decision-making process - will proposals be scored by a panel using a rubric, and will funding decisions be based on a cutoff score or another method?

Response: Applications will be reviewed and competitively scored based on applicant responses to each section of the narrative (see Section 6.0 Narrative in the Grant Announcement). Applicants will be scored based on the rubric for each narrative section contained within the announcement (see Section 3.3 Evaluation Criteria in the Grant Announcement), based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate their capacity to conduct the work and advance the goals of the grant within the grant period.

8. Do you have a sense of whether the selection team tends to prioritize or prefer more innovative program proposals?

Response: No, there is no specific scoring consideration for preference or prioritization of innovative program proposals. Applicants will be awarded with the greatest capacity to advance the goals of the grant based on the scoring described in response to Question 8 above and with the ability to successfully expend the funding on eligible costs in the grant period and before December 31, 2026.

Budget

9. If the actual budget expense date differs from the anticipated date, what is the process with that? Does a modification need to happen each time?

Response: The Anticipated Budget Date should represent when the applicant intends to expend the funds, detailed by expense type and amount. The Department of Administration will provide grant reporting guidance to all successful funding recipients, which will contain instructions to address changes that occur, or are anticipated to occur, on dates of expenditure. Grantees will be required to report on their expenditure and activity progress throughout the performance period.

10. Is there a budget amount not to exceed, an average budget, or a recommended reasonable and competitive budget total that each applicant is recommended to apply for, either for each application or in total for each organization?

Response: There is no set funding range for applicant requests and there is no upper limit on the funding amount that applicants may apply for or are recommended to not exceed. There are no funding restrictions set either by organization or by the applicant's category of submission. However, applicants are encouraged to apply for a budget for the proposed services and programming that they can reasonably expect to expend on eligible costs in the grant period and before December 31, 2026.

Narrative

11. Can you please clarify the requirements for the population served? Must the applicant or its served community reside in a Qualified Census Tracts under Section 1.3 or must the community meet a certain population-based criteria, such as those associated with income or poverty?

Response: Treasury has used Qualified Census Tracts as a mechanism to identify communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic but has acknowledged that there are other ways to identify disproportionately impacted communities. An eligible applicant does not need to be located in a qualified census tract in order to apply for funding.

An eligible applicant is not required to meet certain population-based criteria, such as those associated with income or poverty. Applicants should address how service areas in the application narrative serve communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, other measures may include homelessness, rent burdened or historically low-income communities.

There may also be other scenarios, e.g., a tourism-dependent community, where COVID-19 had economic impacts disproportionate to the rest of the state or country. Applicants using measures other than Qualified Census Tracts should provide justification using quantitative metrics for the relevant neighborhood or community.

Financial Capability Questionnaire

12. The financial capability questionnaire asks applicants to list each federal assistance grant awarded (direct and pass through) in the last five years. We have had more than 100 grant awards in that timeframe. Do you want all of them listed?

Response: List the requested information for federal assistance grants that the organization has awarded in the last five years for as many grants as the space allows.

Eligible Applicants

13. If an organization doesn't have a 501(c) (3) status, are they able to use a fiscal sponsor to apply on behalf of a sponsored organization/project?

Response: Eligible 501(c)(3) organizations that act as a fiscal sponsor may apply on behalf of a sponsored organization/project.

14. As a school district representative, am I permitted to apply for the grant on behalf of our school district? Or does it need to be a community-based non-profit that applies and then comes to the schools to do after-school programming?

Response: School Districts are eligible applicants per the Grant Announcement (see Section 4.1 Eligible Applicant).

15. Are you allowed to be on multiple OVP applications? e.g., the lead applicant on one, but a partner on another?

Response: Yes, organizations can participate in multiple applications either as the primary applicant or as a subcontractor or subawardee of the primary applicant.

16. Are CESAs (Cooperative Education Service Agencies) eligible applicants?

Response: Yes, Cooperative Education Service Agencies are eligible applicants. Eligible Violence Prevention Organizations are defined in the Grant Announcement as “[a]n organization, including but not limited to a non-profit organization, local government agency, hospital, school district, institution of higher education, firearm retailer, firearm range, or federally recognized Native American tribal government, operating in a specific geographic region that has the capacity to support violence prevention, violence intervention, firearm or hunter safety training, health, early childhood, education, economic support, housing, or environmental justice.”

Eligible Activities and Services

17. What kinds of activities are allowable?

Response: Please see under Section 6.0 Narrative - Category Activities Examples in the Grant Announcement for a non-exhaustive list of allowable activities.

18. Are mental health services expenses eligible in the School-Based Initiatives category?

Response: Yes, it could be eligible if other requirements are met. The applicant would need to address how the funding requested for mental health services in a school-based setting would be used to support violence reduction, violence intervention, or related initiatives, and the applicant's capacity to support these activities within the grant period.

19. Would we be able to use this money to improve our current program and expand it?

Response: Yes, the applicant could apply to improve and expand current violence reduction work, violence intervention work, or related initiatives.

20. If our violence prevention program doesn't speak to gun violence, is that a disqualifier?

Response: Eligible activities are not limited to gun violence prevention (see Section 4.1 Eligibility Requirements; Eligible Applicant in the Grant Announcement). Applicants must submit an application that is responsive to their capacity to implement violence reduction, violence intervention, and other associated initiatives, based on their narrative responses to category-specific requirements listed in the Grant Application Instructions and Grant Announcement.

21. Can school districts or other organizations apply for staff training, such as for behavioral threat assessments or non-violence crisis interventions?

Response: Yes, training costs could be eligible under Category E (School-Based Initiatives), and/or potentially under other categories, if other requirements are met. The applicant would need to address how the funding requested for training staff would be used to support violence reduction, violence intervention, or related initiatives, through their completion of the scored narrative. The applicant would need to address their capacity to support these activities within the grant period.

22. Can we provide training and technical assistance to grantees or violence prevention organizations?

Response: Training and technical assistance provided by an applicant could be eligible if other requirements are met. The applicant would need to address how the funding requested for training and technical assistance would be used to support violence reduction, violence intervention, or related initiatives, and the applicant's capacity to support these activities

within the grant period. The applicant should also provide specific information about the population that they are proposing to provide technical assistance to.

23. Are there any parameters or restrictions as to what audiences the funding may serve?

Response: There are no specific restrictions. All services must be directed toward audiences in Wisconsin to advance the goals of the grant to support, replicate, and expand effective, evidence-based or evidence-informed violence reduction and intervention initiatives, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by violence. The capacity of the violence prevention organization to best advance the goals of the grant will be evaluated and scored based on its narrative responses (see Section 3.3 Evaluation Criteria in the Grant Announcement).

An eligible violence prevention organization applicant is defined as follows: "an organization, including but not limited to a non-profit organization, local government agency, hospital, school district, institution of higher education, firearm retailer, firearm range, or federally recognized Native American tribal government, operating in a specific geographic region that has the capacity to support violence prevention, violence intervention, firearm or hunter safety training, health, early childhood, education, economic support, housing, or environmental justice."

24. How are "targeted attacks" under "threat assessment" defined and what types of activities are included within this definition?

Response: Threat assessment aims to interrupt people on a pathway to commit "predatory or instrumental violence," which is the type of behavior associated with targeted attacks. While there is not a single definition of targeted violence, it has been defined as "an act of violence that is pre-meditated, predatory, and directed at a specific individual, group, or location"¹ or "any incident where a known or knowable attacker selects a particular target prior to their violent attack".² The applicant may apply for funding for the purpose of conducting threat assessments if they have the capacity to provide services or programming for violence intervention or interruption initiatives.

Eligible Expenses

Expense Period/Grant Period

25. What is the eligible period of expenditure/how many years does this grant cover?

¹ [SchoolSafety.gov – Targeted Violence](https://www.schoolsafety.gov/targeted-violence)

² Vossekuil, B., Fein, R., Reddy, M., Borum, R., & Modzeleski, W., The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program and U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center, Washington, D.C., 2002

Response: Expenses are eligible within the performance period, which is from December 5, 2025, to December 31, 2026, as provided in the Grant Announcement's Calendar of Events (Section 1.6 General Information: Calendar of Events). All expenses and projects must be completed by the end of the performance period. Grantees will be required to report on their progress throughout the performance period.

26. Is there a planning year that needs to be included?

Response: There is no additional time committed for planning or other grant phases outside of what is contained within the Calendar of Events in the Grant Announcement (Section 1.6 General Information: Calendar of Events). This grant opportunity is supported by one-time funding obligated under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 under the U.S. Department of the Treasury's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The State is required to comply with the SLFRF's guidance and timelines.

Indirect

27. Are indirect costs allowable, is there any limitation or restriction on the rate used?

Response: Applicants may include indirect costs. While the Code of Federal Regulations is not generally applicable to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as a best practice, applicants may use their federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or may use the de minimis rate, which is presently 15% per 2 CFR 200.414(f).

Post-Award Information

Reporting

28. What will the reporting look like?

Response: Grantees will be required to report on their progress throughout the performance period. The progress reporting criteria and cadence will balance appropriate oversight, technical assistance and support, and grantee workload, to ensure successful completion of the grant program and appropriate use of grant funding within the allowable performance period. The Department of Administration will provide grant reporting guidance to all award recipients.