



School Safety &
Social Wellness

Stronger Connections Grant

FY24 LEA Competitive Application Guidance

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- **FY24 LEA Competitive Application Overview Webinar PPT**

U.S. Department of Education [Stronger Connections Grant](#) Resources

- [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter from Secretary Cardona](#)
- [Grant Award Notification to States](#)
- [Grant Award Notification Assurances](#)

If you have additional questions regarding the **Stronger Connections Grant**, please reach out by emailing:

StrongerConnections@azed.gov

and visit: www.azed.gov/StrongerConnections



Arizona Department of Education
Office of the State Superintendent

Dear School Leaders,

ADE received \$20M through the Federal *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* for the Stronger Connections Grant program. States have been provided flexibility on how best to target those funds to support school safety needs through offering competitive grants to 'High-Need LEAs', as determined by the ADE.

ADE's grant will be focused on providing resources to 'High-Need LEAs' to hire, train and support effective **School Safety Officers (SSOs)** for their school(s).

Our focus was driven by feedback provided from the schools regarding the School Safety Program grant, as schools have reported challenges in hiring School Resource Officers. These state funds are limited to School Resource Officers (SROs) who must be certified police officers hired in full-time roles.

Federally funded SSOs, however, may be a peace officer or a full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. SSOs will perform the same duties as an SRO as required by existing School Safety Grant protocol, albeit in an off-duty or extra-duty capacity versus a full-time capacity. This provides much needed local flexibility, and would be appropriate for schools that could not find SROs in their communities.

Given this, we have defined 'High-Need LEAs' for the grant as public, non-profit (as required by USED) LEAs (school districts or charter schools) with no School Resource Officers (SROs) at one or more of their schools. We are additionally providing additional competitive preference for applications serving small, rural and remote LEAs, and LEAs reporting high local school community crime rate data.

LEAs may apply for up to a maximum of \$500,000 per proposed participating school included in the LEA's application. ADE has reserved at least \$19,785,580.65 to support LEA grants through this new grant program.

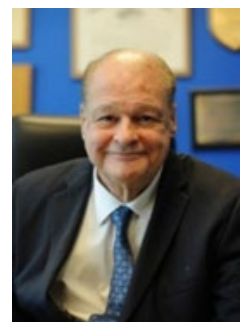
The grant will allow for LEAs to hire and support new School Safety Officer personnel over three full school years (SY23-24, SY24-25, and SY25-26), with the grant ending September 30, 2026.

Thank you again for all you are doing to support the continued safety of our students and staff!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Horne".

Tom Horne,
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education



Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

What is the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)?

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) is authorized under PL 117-159 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Title II School Improvement Programs (JUNE 25, 2022) Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) for State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to make awards on a competitive basis to high-need Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) as determined by the SEA, for activities to support safe and healthy students under Title IV-A, Section 4108 of the ESEA:

“Provided further, That \$1,000,000,000 shall be for activities under section 4108 of the ESEA and, notwithstanding section 4105 of such Act, States shall make awards on a competitive basis to high-need local educational agencies as determined by the State.”

The US Department of Education (ED) announced state awards for the Stronger Connections Grant program on September 15, 2022.

How does the Stronger Connections Grant relate to Title IV-A?

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act requires that funds may only be used for activities that would be allowable to support safe and healthy students under Title IV-A, Section 4108 of the ESEA. ED has further defined that *“an SEA may design its Stronger Connections LEA subgrant competition in a manner that prioritizes a certain scope of LEA activities within the breadth of one or more specific allowable activities”* (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; A-3).

Additionally, ED has clarified that the *“fundamental requirements of Title IV, Part A also apply to these funds, including the **supplement, not supplant requirement** (ESEA section 4110); the **maintenance of effort requirement** (ESEA section 8521); and the requirement to provide **equitable services to private school students and personnel** (ESEA section 8501 et seq.)”* (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; A-2).

Arizona's Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Award Summary

Total Award: \$20,826,927

Project Term: September 2022 – September 30, 2026 (~48 months)

Total Administrative Costs Reservation (1%)	\$208,269.27
Total Amount for Discretionary SEA Activities (up to 4%)	\$833,077.08
Total Required LEA Assistance (95%)	\$19,785,580.65
Total All	\$20,826,927

SEA Activities

- SEAs may reserve to 1% of the total award to administer the grant program
- SEAs may reserve up to 4% of the total award for SEA activities allowable under ESEA Sec. 4108 (*Title IV-A: Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students*)

LEA Assistance

- SEAs must award at least 95% of the total award through a competitive process to 'High-Need LEAs'
- SEAs have discretion to define 'High-Need LEA' for the purpose of this program and to design the mechanics of the LEA competitive subgrant process, to include the timeline for awarding funds
- LEAs may use funds for activities allowable under ESEA Sec. 4108 (*Title IV-A: Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students*), as further defined and proscribed by ADE for the Stronger Connections Grant program
- Supplement and not supplant requirements apply for LEAs per ESEA Sec. 4110
- Maintenance of Effort requirements apply for LEAs per ESEA Sec. 8521
- Equitable services for non-public schools requirements apply for school-district LEAs per ESEA Sec. 8501

FY24 LEA Competitive Application Process

What is the focus of Arizona's Stronger Connections Grant?

ADE's Stronger Connections Grant is focused on providing resources to 'High-Need LEAs' to hire, train and support effective **School Safety Officers (SSOs)** for their school(s).

Who is eligible to apply?

All non-profit LEAs meeting the state's definition of a 'High Need LEA' (see below) are eligible to apply.

How is 'High Need LEA' defined by ADE for the Stronger Connections Grant?

'High Need' LEAs are defined for the Stronger Connections Grant as public, non-profit LEAs (school districts or charter schools) with no School Resource Officers (SROs) **at one or more of their schools.**

What is the maximum award size that LEAs can apply for?

LEAs may apply for **up to a maximum of \$500,000 per proposed participating school** included in the LEA's application. ADE must reserve a minimum of \$19,785,580.65 to support LEA grants through the Stronger Connections Grant program.

How long will LEAs have to use these funds?

The period of availability for Stronger Connections Grant funds runs through **September 30, 2026**. Given this, the grant will allow for LEAs to hire and support School Safety Officer personnel over three school years (SY23-24, SY24-25, and SY25-26).

What Assurances will apply to LEAs that choose to apply?

All LEAs applying for funds must agree to and adhere to the following required grant assurances:

* **Complies with: ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS**

- The LEAs will ensure SCG funds are only used for activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA, as further defined and proscribed by ADE for the SCG program.

* **Complies with: PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS**

- The LEAs will ensure that SCG funds are not used for the provision to any person of a dangerous weapon* or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

*[*A "dangerous weapon" is defined in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for,*

or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.]

*** Complies with: LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT**

- The LEAs will ensure that local, **non-federal** matching funds will be available and used to fulfill all required weapons trainings for School Safety Officers, as applicable, to ensure compliance with Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

*** Complies with: ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- The LEA ensures it will provide equitable services, as applicable, to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA, and ensure that:
 - A public agency maintains control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school with SCG funds.
 - A public agency has title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with SCG funds.
 - Services to a non-public school with SCG funds are provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.
 - Equitable services provided with SCG funds are secular, neutral, and nonideological.

*** Complies with: SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT**

- The LEA ensures it will follow the supplement not supplant requirements in section 4110 of the ESEA for SCG funds.

*** Complies with: MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT**

- The LEA ensures it will follow the Maintenance of Effort requirements in section 8521 of the ESEA for SCG funds.

*** Complies with: LOCAL TRACKING OF FUNDS**

- The LEA ensures it will track SCG funds received separately from its regular allocation under Title IV, Part A of the ESEA.

*** Complies with: DATA REPORTING AND EVALUATION**

- The LEA ensures it will participate, as requested, in any US Department of Education or ADE evaluation of the SCG program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds.

What can LEAs use Stronger Connection Grant funds for?

LEAs may only use SCG funds for activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA, as further defined and proscribed by ADE for the SCG program. ADE will further review all proposed activities to ensure they are allowable, reasonable and necessary for the purposes of the Stronger Connections Grant program.

ADE has defined and proscribed **Required Program Activities** and **Allowable Local Uses of Stronger Connection Grant Funds** that will apply to all LEA applicants (see below).

What are the Required Program Activities for LEA Grantees?

ADE has identified the following required program activities for LEA SCG grantees:

Required Stronger Connections Grant Program Activities

- Administer the grant and participate in any program evaluation and reporting that may be required by ADE or the US Department of Education
- Hire School Safety Officer(s) (1 FTE equivalent) for each campus included in the LEAs approved application
- Ensure participation of SSO in the required SSO-related training series, as determined by the ADE SCG program
- Ensure participation of LEA and participating school staff in all required SCG training, as determined by ADE SCG program
- Revise / update local LEA and participating school safety plans
- Provide support for any firearms-related training that may be required for SSOs using non-federal funds

What are the Allowable Local Uses of Stronger Connection Grant Funds?

ADE has identified the following allowable local uses of SCG funds for LEA SCG grantees:

Allowable Local Uses of Stronger Connections Grant Funds

- Salary and Benefits for School Safety Officer(s)
- Reasonable and necessary administrative costs, to include indirect costs as applicable, for the LEA to administer the grant
- Support for required SSO training, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)
- Support for LEA and school staff to attend additional training and networking opportunities facilitated by ADE SCG staff, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)
- Reasonable and necessary equipment and supplies to support the implementation of the SSO model

What can Stronger Connections Grant funds **not** be used for?

LEAs grantees must ensure that SCG funds are not used for the provision to any person of a dangerous weapon* or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

*[*A “dangerous weapon” is defined in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.]*

Additionally, SCG funds may not be used for school construction. Per ED: “*BSCA Stronger Connections grants are appropriated for carrying out activities under subpart 1 of Part A of Title IV of the ESEA, specifically for activities under ESEA section 4108. ESEA section 8526(1) prohibits using funds under the ESEA “for construction, renovation, or repair of any school facility, except as authorized under [the ESEA],” and there is no specific authorization for construction, renovation, or repair in ESEA Title IV, Part A. Accordingly, Stronger Connections funds may not be used for school*

construction.” (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; D-1).

Further, the transferability flexibility associated with Title IV-A funds does not apply to the Stronger Connections Grant program. Stronger Connections Grant funds an LEA receives **may not** be transferred to other authorized ESEA programs consistent with ESEA Section 5103.

Is there a local matching funds requirement?

Yes. LEAs grantees must ensure that local, **non-federal** matching funds will be available and used to fulfill all required weapons trainings for School Safety Officers, as applicable, to ensure compliance with Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

Does the grant have a supplement and not-supplant requirement?

Yes. LEA grantees must ensure they will follow the supplement not supplant requirements in section 4110 of the ESEA for SCG funds

Are school districts required to provide equitable services?

Yes. LEA grantees must ensure they will provide equitable services, as applicable, to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA, and ensure that:

- A public agency maintains control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school with SCG funds.
- A public agency has title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with SCG funds.
- Services to a non-public school with SCG funds are provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.
- Equitable services provided with SCG funds are secular, neutral, and nonideological.

NOTE: Equitable services requirements do not apply to Charter LEAs.

Successful school district applicants will be required to complete applicable equitable services requirements, such as identifying eligible, participating private schools, calculating proportionate share and engaging in timely and meaningful consultation with officials from eligible private schools to determine how services would be provided to participating private schools.

Please note that the eligibility requirements, Required Program Activities and Allowable Local Uses of Stronger Connection Grant Funds for potential participating private schools will be the same as for LEA applicants (see: *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; E-4*).

Proportional share of SCG funds for Private Schools shall be determined based on the total amount of SCG Funds received by the local education agency (LEA) prior to any allowable expenditures, and will be calculated within the LEA grant application in the same manner as used for Title IV-A for eligible participating private schools, per ESEA Sec. 8501(a)(4) (see: *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; E-5*).

Is there a Maintenance of Effort requirement?

Yes. The Maintenance of Effort requirements of ESEA Sec. 8521 apply for LEAs receiving Stronger Connections Grant funds.

What are the budget requirements for LEA applicants?

LEAs must complete a *proposed* budget as part of the LEA competitive application in the Grants Management system.

Sufficient details must be provided in the Budget Narrative, and the LEA must:

- Ensure the LEA only applies for a total award of up to \$500,000 for each proposed, participating school;
- Ensure the detailed budget narrative is completed and coded correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with minimal to no mathematical errors;
- Ensure that all requests for funds are reasonable, necessary, and allowable, per the requirements of the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program.
- Ensure that all budgeted activities supplement, and do not supplant other non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used to pay for authorized activities.

How should LEAs locally track Stronger Connections Grant funds received?

LEAs must ensure that Stronger Connections Grant funds received by the LEA are tracked in a separate fund in the other federal projects fund range (300-399).

How will eligible LEAs apply for grant funds?

Eligible 'High Need LEAs' will apply for the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant through completing an online application in the ADE online Grants Management system, at gme.azed.gov.

When will applications open for LEAs to apply?

The FY24 Stronger Connections Grant LEA Competitive Application will open on **March 21, 2023**, and will remain open for a 6-week application window for LEAs to submit applications.

What is the deadline for LEAs to apply?

The deadline for LEAs to apply for the Stronger Connections Grant through the FY24 LEA Competitive Application process is **May 2, 2023**.

What are the required LEA application elements?

All sections within the LEA FY24 Stronger Connections Grant competitive application must be completed in the Grants Management system.

These sections include:

- **FFATA & GSA Verification**
- **Contacts**
 - Required Contacts
 - Additional Contacts – Participating Schools
- **Assurances**
 - Assurance of Application Completion
 - Program Assurances
- **Budget**
- **Program Narrative Questions**
- **Proportionate Share Determination***
- **Capital Outlay Worksheet** (as applicable)
- **Related Documents**
 - *Affirmation of Consultation** (as applicable)

***Note:** **Successfully funded school district applicants for which equitable services requirements would apply will only be required to complete this section after they are provided notice of their award. Once approved, the LEA application will then be placed on a programmatic hold and the LEA will not be able to draw down funds until the equitable services process is completed.*

Program Narrative Questions

LEAs will be required to provide responses to each of the following Program Narrative Questions. The LEA must provide responses to each narrative question from the LEA perspective **and** on behalf of all schools proposed by the LEA to participate in the LEA's Stronger Connections Grant application.

All program narrative questions must be addressed by the LEA:

- Please describe your LEA's current School Safety plan model at both the LEA and school level. Include how the addition of a School Safety Officer will further support the implementation of your plan:
- Please describe all current, or potentially new, community-based partnerships that may be in place, or available, to support the LEA's implementation of their School Safety plan:
- Please provide summary information regarding current (SY22-23) local school community crime rate / conditions, and provide the applicable data source:

What are the Competitive Preference Priorities for applicants?

LEAs may qualify for up to an additional 50 points as part of the LEA competitive application process based on meeting one or more of the following competitive preference priorities:

Points	Competitive Preference Priorities
20	LEA received an award for the state School Safety Program (SSP) grant, but was unable to hire an SRO
10	LEA has high reported local school community crime rate / conditions data
5	LEA is considered a 'Small LEA', with a total K-12 enrollment of 600 students or less
5	LEA is defined as 'Rural' by the State, per ARS §15-249.13
10	LEA is considered a 'Rural and Remote' LEA (all schools in the LEA are defined as Rural Fringe, Distant or Remote (NCES Local Code 41, 42, or 43))

ADE will award points for Competitive Preference Priorities based on data from the following sources:

- ADE School Safety Grant Program
- LEA FY24 Stronger Connections Grant application Program Narrative Questions response
- School Finance Unit
- FY24 Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)

How will LEA applications be reviewed and scored by ADE?

LEA applications will be reviewed to ensure all grant requirements are met, and that applications are administratively complete:

LEA Application Administrative Completeness Review Checklist
LEA Application Submitted by the Application Deadline
FFATA / GSA Section Completed
LEA Assurances Fully Completed
LEA and Participating School(s) Contact Information Fully Completed
Proposed Budget Completed
Program Narrative Questions Completed
LEA Application Checklist Reviewed with No Deficiencies

The ADE Stronger Connections Grant LEA competitive application review team will use the '**Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) – FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric**', included as an appendix to this guidance document, to formally score each LEA submitted application.

Awards will be made based on the scored rubric. **Seventy percent (70%) of points is required for funding.** The total awards made will be driven by the quality of scored applications and the total of available funding.

When will successful LEA applicants be identified and awards announced?

Successful LEA applicants will be identified and final awards announced **no later than July 1, 2023.**



School Safety Officer

Position Description & Requirements

Arizona's Stronger Connections Grant **School Safety Officer (SSO)** model is designed to enhance safety in and around Arizona schools through the **placement, training, and support** of a **peace officer or a full-authority reserve peace officer** who is **certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board**, in 'High-Need' Local Education Agency (LEA) schools.

'High Need' LEAs are defined for the Stronger Connections Grant as public, non-profit LEAs (school districts or charter schools) with **no School Resource Officers (SROs) at one or more of their schools**.

The components of the School Safety Officer (SSO) model are as follows:

▪ **Enhanced Police Response and Presence in Schools**

The SSO model will be used in schools that do not have a dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO). The SSO shall perform the same duties as an SRO as required by existing School Safety Grant protocol, albeit in an off-duty or extra-duty capacity.

▪ **Site Assessments to Reinforce a Safe Environment for Schools**

The SSO shall work with school personnel to conduct site assessments of their respective schools. From these assessments, participating officers will provide recommendations to their schools to reinforce a safe school environment.

▪ **Support Emergency Response Plans as Required by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE)**

The SSO shall work with school staff and other appropriate personnel to ensure their assigned school has an updated Emergency Response Plan.

▪ **Foster Partnerships with Students, School Staff, and Parents to Build Meaningful Relationships with Law Enforcement**

Please also note the following from the US Department of Education:

"LEAs must ensure school-based officers (e.g., law enforcement, security, or school resource officers and others with arresting powers), like all school employees or other individuals with whom a recipient contracts or otherwise exercises some control over, comply with Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability*." (*Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; C-21*).

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance. 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d–2000d-7. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex by recipients of Federal financial assistance. 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 both prohibit discrimination based on disability, the former by recipients of Federal financial assistance, the latter by State and local governments, regardless of whether they receive Federal funds. 29 U.S.C. § 794; 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 –12134.*

Additional Requirements:

➤ **Annual Trainings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating LEAs are required to attend annual trainings each year during the grant term:

- **District/Charter Holder Administrator**
- **Site Administrator or Site Administrator Designee**
 - Joint Site Administrator or Joint Site Administrator Designee (*if awarded as a joint site*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **Police Agency Supervisor**

➤ **Quarterly Meetings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating schools are required to establish a **School Safety Team** that meets Quarterly (*recommended Monthly*):

- **Site Administrator** (*Principal, Assistant Principal, or Dean of Students*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **School prevention coordinator, or school mental/behavioral health expert, or registered nurse, or similar role**

➤ **Annual Program Reporting – School Safety Officers (SSOs)**

Stronger Connections Grant participants are required to quantify activities implemented under the grant and report on the implementation of the grant. Data collected will be utilized for grant end-of-year reporting and for program evaluation purposes:

- **Law-Related Education (LRE)**

Each officer is required to complete at least 180 hours of LRE instruction per year. The development and implementation of LRE must be based on a need's assessment.
- **Officer Weekly Log**

Officers are required to complete a weekly activity log that tracks LRE instruction hours, teacher and subject, the topic of each LRE lesson, and the time the officer is off their assigned campus during their duty hours, regardless of the reason.

➤ **Annual Program Evaluation**

Schools awarded funding under the Stronger Connections Grant agree to participate in all program evaluation activities. The evaluation shall include survey results and additional data that may be required to gauge the impact of schools participating in the grant. The following is included as a required Assurance in the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant application: *“The LEA ensures it will participate, as requested, in any US Department of Education or ADE evaluation of the SCG program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds.”*



School Safety Officer (SSO), LEA and School Staff

Required Training Series

All LEA applicants for the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant must:

- Ensure participation of SSO in the required SSO-related training series, as determined by the ADE SCG program; and,
- Ensure participation of LEA and participating school staff in all required SCG training, as determined by ADE SCG program.

LEAs should plan reserve funds in their application budgets to provide:

- Support for required SSO training, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)
- Support for LEA and school staff to attend additional training and networking opportunities facilitated by ADE SCG staff, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)

Required trainings for School Safety Officers (SSOs), LEA and School Staff may include a combination of face-to-face, online and hybrid delivery models. LEAs may budget reasonable amounts to ensure full participation of required attendees, and may include registration and travel expenses (as applicable).

Required trainings for the Stronger Connections Grant include, but are not limited to the following. Additional trainings and technical assistance opportunities may be also provided:

➤ **Leadership 100** (half-day training):

- Required for first-year District Administrators, Site Administrators, Supervising Sergeants, Funded Positions (SRO, JPO, School Counselors, School Social Workers)
- Please note that L100 is the first day of the 4-day New Officer Training
- Overview of L100:
 - SSP Overview
 - Roles & Responsibilities
 - Where Should Our Focus Be?
 - Scenarios
 - Law Related Education
 - Social Emotional Learning

- School Safety Assessment & Prevention Team
- Laws, Tools, Resources

➤ **New School Safety Officer (SSO) Training:**

- Day 1 (half-day virtual training): Leadership 100 (see above)
- Day 2 (full day virtual training): Facilitation led by ADE – see NOT Day 2 PDF
 - Introduction/Orientation
 - Time on/off campus
 - IGA/ISA
 - Officer Scenarios
 - What to Expect
 - Understanding a Child’s Perspective
 - Child Development
 - Trauma Responsive Practices
 - Mental Health
- Days 3 (full-day hybrid training): Facilitation led by the Foundation
 - Law Related Education
- Day 4 (half-day virtual): Facilitation led by the Foundation, followed by ESS / ADE
 - Law Related Education
 - Exceptional Student Services (see SRO Training 2022 ESS PDF)
 - Wrap-up

➤ **Annual Trainings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating LEAs are required to attend annual trainings each year during the grant term:

- **District/Charter Holder Administrator**
- **Site Administrator or Site Administrator Designee**
 - Joint Site Administrator or Joint Site Administrator Designee (*if awarded as a joint site*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **Police Agency Supervisor**

➤ **Quarterly Meetings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating schools are required to establish a **School Safety Team** that meets Quarterly (*recommended Monthly*):

- **Site Administrator** (*Principal, Assistant Principal, or Dean of Students*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **School prevention coordinator, or school mental/behavioral health expert, or registered nurse, or similar role**



LEA Name	Entity ID #	CTDS #
LEA Primary Point of Contact	Email	Phone

Proposed Participating School(s)	Entity ID #	CTDS #	Budget Requested
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		SUBTOTAL	\$
Total LEA-Level Proposed Budget			\$
			TOTAL ALL
			\$

LEA Application Administrative Completeness Review Checklist	
LEA Application Submitted by the Application Deadline	
FFATA / GSA Section Completed	
LEA Assurances Fully Completed	
LEA and Participating School(s) Contact Information Fully Completed	
Proposed Budget Completed	
Program Narrative Questions Completed	
LEA Application Checklist Reviewed with No Deficiencies	



LEA Application Scoring Summary

Total Possible Points	Points Earned	Competitive Preference Priorities
20		LEA received an award for the state School Safety Program (SSP) grant, but was unable to hire an SRO
10		LEA has high reported local school community crime rate / conditions data
5		LEA is considered a 'Small LEA', with a total K-12 enrollment of 600 students or less
5		LEA is defined as 'Rural' by the State, per ARS §15-249.13
10		LEA is considered a 'Rural and Remote' LEA (all schools in the LEA are defined as Rural Fringe, Distant or Remote (NCES Local Code 41, 42, or 43)
Total Points		Competitive Preference Priorities

Total Possible Points	Points Earned	Application Requirements
15		Quality of the Project Budget
30		Quality of LEA and School Level School Safety Plan
25		Quality of Community-Based Partnerships to Support Local Implementation
30		Severity of Local School Community Crime Rate / Conditions
100		Application Requirements

Scorer Name	Total Points Available	Total Points Earned	Date	Initials



LEA Application Requirements Scoring Rubric

	0-5	6-10	11-15	
<p>Quality of the Project Budget (15 Points)</p>	<p>Budget contains multiple errors and insufficient details</p> <p>Budget contains unallowable activities per the SCG allowable activities framework</p> <p>Total proposed budget per school exceeds the \$500,000 per school maximum</p>	<p>Budget narrative contains sufficient details, coded mostly correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with some mathematical errors</p> <p>Budget elements are allowable per the SCG allowable activities framework, but additional detail may be required to confirm all are reasonable and necessary</p>	<p>Detailed budget narrative completed and coded correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with minimal to no mathematical errors</p> <p>All budget elements are reasonable, necessary and allowable per the SCG allowable activities framework</p>	
				<p>Total Points</p>



	0-10	11-20	21-30	
Quality of LEA and School Level School Safety Plan (30 Points)	LEA response is vague and unclear LEA response does not include information on behalf of all LEA proposed participating schools	LEA plan is clear with generally sufficient details provided for both the LEA and all proposed participating schools	LEA plan is clear and detailed for both the LEA and all proposed participating schools	
				Total Points

	0-8	9-17	18-25	
Quality of Community-Based Partnerships to Support Local Implementation (25 Points)	LEA response is vague and unclear	LEA response includes general details outlining relevant local community-based partnerships Response is not fully clear on how partnerships would be leveraged to support the implementation of their School Safety plan	LEA plan is clear and detailed and includes information on how both existing and potential new partnerships would be leveraged to support the implementation of their School Safety plan	
				Total Points



Table with 4 columns: Rubric Category (Severity of Local School Community Crime Rate / Conditions), Score Ranges (0-10, 11-20, 21-30), and Total Points. The table contains descriptive text for each score range and a final 'Total Points' cell.



Stronger Connection Grant (SCG)

FY24 LEA Competitive Application Process

Recorded Webinar

March 2023



Stronger Connection Grant (SCG)



Welcome!

Please visit
www.azed.gov/StrongerConnections
for all grant and program resources and
guidance documents

If you have any questions,
please contact us at:
StrongerConnections@azed.gov



Webinar Agenda



What is the Stronger Connections Grant?



LEA Award Details and Grant Requirements



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant Focus:

- *Required Program Activities*
- *Allowable Local Uses of Funds*
- *Unallowable Uses of Funds*
- *Local matching funds requirement*



Overview of the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant LEA Competitive Application in GME:

- *Application Elements*
- *Assurances & Requirements*



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric



LEA Competitive Application Timeline



Contacts and Resources



Stronger Connection Grant (SCG)

The *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)*, signed on June 25, 2022, appropriated \$1 billion to establish the **Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)** Program

- ADE received notice of our award on September 15, 2022

Total Award:	\$20,826,927
Project Term:	September 2022 – September 30, 2026 (~48 months)

Total Administrative Costs Reservation (1%)	\$208,269.27
Total Amount for Discretionary SEA Activities (up to 4%)	\$833,077.08
Total Required LEA Assistance (95%)	\$19,785,580.65
Total All	\$20,826,927



Stronger Connection Grant (SCG)

How does the Stronger Connections Grant relate to Title IV-A?

- The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act requires that funds may only be used for activities that would be allowable to support safe and healthy students under Title IV-A, Sec. 4108 of the ESEA. ED has further defined that “*an SEA may design its Stronger Connections LEA subgrant competition in a manner that prioritizes a certain scope of LEA activities within the breadth of one or more specific allowable activities*” (*Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; A-3*)

How can LEAs access Stronger Connections Grant?

- States are required to hold a **competitive application process for ‘High Need LEAs’** to apply for the Stronger Connections Grant. States can define what is a ‘High Need LEA’ and the mechanics of the LEA competitive application process - to include the timeline for awarding funds. States may also choose to define specific areas of focus for allowable grant activities, within the general scope of what would be allowable under Title IV-A, Sec. 4108 of the ESEA



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant

ADE's Stronger Connections Grant is focused on providing resources to 'High-Need LEAs' to hire, train and support effective **School Safety Officers (SSOs)** for their school(s)



LEA Award Details and Grant Requirements

Who is eligible to apply?

All non-profit LEAs meeting the state's definition of a 'High Need LEA' (see below) are eligible to apply

How is 'High Need LEA' defined by ADE for the Stronger Connections Grant?

'High Need' LEAs are defined for the Stronger Connections Grant as public, non-profit LEAs (school districts or charter schools) with no School Resource Officers (SROs) **at one or more of their schools**

What is the maximum award size that LEAs can apply for?

LEAs may apply for **up to a maximum of \$500,000 per proposed participating school** included in the LEA's application. ADE must reserve a minimum of \$19,785,580.65 to support LEA grants through the Stronger Connections Grant program

How long will LEAs have to use these funds?

The period of availability for Stronger Connections Grant funds runs through **September 30, 2026**. Given this, the grant will allow for LEAs to hire and support School Safety Officer personnel over three school years (SY23-24, SY24-25, and SY25-26)



LEA Award Details and Grant Requirements

Does the grant have a supplement and not-supplant requirement?

Yes. LEA grantees must ensure they will follow the supplement not supplant requirements in section 4110 of the ESEA for SCG funds

Is there a Maintenance of Effort requirement?

Yes. The Maintenance of Effort requirements of ESEA Sec. 8521 apply for LEAs receiving Stronger Connections Grant funds

Are school districts required to provide equitable services?

Yes. LEA grantees must ensure they will provide equitable services, as applicable, to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA. **Equitable services requirements do not apply to Charter LEAs**

Successful school district applicants will be required to complete applicable equitable services requirements, such as identifying eligible, participating private schools, calculating proportionate share and engaging in timely and meaningful consultation with officials from eligible private schools to determine how services would be provided to participating private schools



LEA Award Details and Grant Requirements

How will eligible LEAs apply for grant funds?

Eligible 'High Need LEAs' will apply for the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant through completing an online application in the ADE online Grants Management system, at gme.azed.gov

When will applications open for LEAs to apply?

The FY24 Stronger Connections Grant LEA Competitive Application will open on **March 21, 2023**, and will remain open for a 6-week application window for LEAs to submit applications

What is the deadline for LEAs to apply?

The deadline for LEAs to apply for the Stronger Connections Grant through the FY24 LEA Competitive Application process is **May 2, 2023**



LEA Award Details and Grant Requirements

What are the Competitive Preference Priorities for applicants?

LEAs may qualify for up to an additional 50 points as part of the LEA competitive application process based on meeting one or more of the following competitive preference priorities:

Points	Competitive Preference Priorities
20	LEA received an award for the state School Safety Program (SSP) grant, but was unable to hire an SRO
10	LEA has high reported local school community crime rate / conditions data
5	LEA is considered a 'Small LEA', with a total K-12 enrollment of 600 students or less
5	LEA is defined as 'Rural' by the State, per ARS §15-249.13
10	LEA is considered a 'Rural and Remote' LEA (all schools in the LEA are defined as Rural Fringe, Distant or Remote (NCES Local Code 41, 42, or 43)

ADE will award points for Competitive Preference Priorities based on data from the following sources:

- ADE School Safety Grant Program
- LEA FY24 Stronger Connections Grant application Program Narrative Questions response
- School Finance Unit
- FY24 Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant Focus

What are the **Required Program Activities** for LEA Grantees?

ADE has identified the following required program activities for LEA SCG grantees:

Required Stronger Connections Grant Program Activities

- Administer the grant and participate in any program evaluation and reporting that may be required by ADE or the US Department of Education
- **Hire School Safety Officer(s) (1 FTE equivalent)** for each campus included in the LEAs approved application
- Ensure participation of SSO in the required SSO-related training series, as determined by the ADE SCG program
- Ensure participation of LEA and participating school staff in all required SCG training, as determined by ADE SCG program
- Revise / update local LEA and participating school safety plans
- Provide support for any firearms-related training that may be required for SSOs using non-federal funds



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant Focus

What are the **Allowable Local Uses** of Stronger Connection Grant Funds?

ADE has identified the following allowable local uses of SCG funds for LEA SCG grantees:

Allowable Local Uses of Stronger Connections Grant Funds

- Salary and Benefits for School Safety Officer(s)
- Reasonable and necessary administrative costs, to include indirect costs as applicable, for the LEA to administer the grant
- Support for required SSO training, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)
- Support for LEA and school staff to attend additional training and networking opportunities facilitated by ADE SCG staff, to include registration and travel expenses (as applicable)
- Reasonable and necessary equipment and supplies to support the implementation of the SSO model



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant Focus

What can Stronger Connections Grant funds not be used for?

LEAs grantees must ensure that SCG funds are not used for the provision to any person of a dangerous weapon* or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA

*[*A “dangerous weapon” is defined in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.]*

Additionally, SCG funds may not be used for school construction. Per ED: *“BSCA Stronger Connections grants are appropriated for carrying out activities under subpart 1 of Part A of Title IV of the ESEA, specifically for activities under ESEA section 4108. ESEA section 8526(1) prohibits using funds under the ESEA “for construction, renovation, or repair of any school facility, except as authorized under [the ESEA],” and there is no specific authorization for construction, renovation, or repair in ESEA Title IV, Part A. Accordingly, Stronger Connections funds may not be used for school construction.”* (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; D-1)

Further, the transferability flexibility associated with Title IV-A funds does not apply to the Stronger Connections Grant program. Stronger Connections Grant funds an LEA receives **may not** be transferred to other authorized ESEA programs consistent with ESEA Section 5103



Arizona's Stronger Connection Grant Focus

Is there a local matching funds requirement?

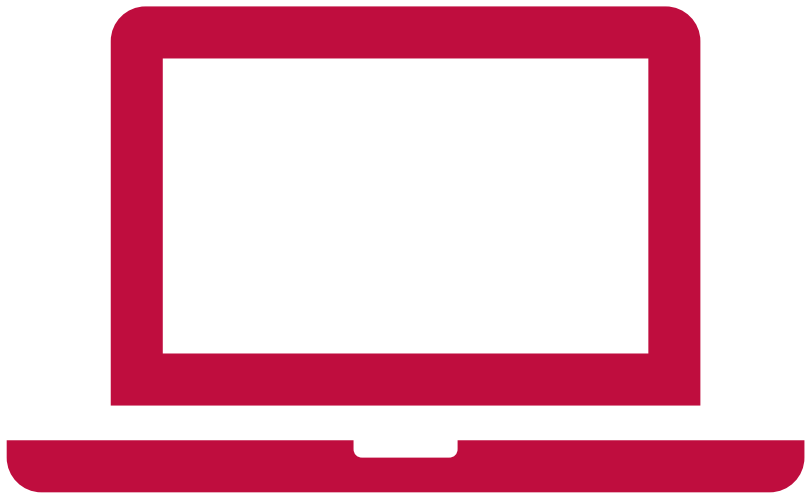
Yes. LEAs grantees must ensure that local, non-federal matching funds will be available and used to fulfill all required weapons trainings for School Safety Officers, as applicable, to ensure compliance with Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA

How will eligible LEAs apply for grant funds?

Eligible 'High Need LEAs' will apply for the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant through completing an online application in the ADE online Grants Management system, at gme.azed.gov



Overview of the Grant Application in GME



The **FY24 Stronger Connections Grant** application may be accessed through the **ADE Grants Management** system at: gme.azed.gov

You will need to sign into the Grants Management system using your **ADEConnect** login information to access the application. **Access to the Grants Management system may need to be granted to you by your local LEA ADEConnect Entity Administrator**

The Funding Application is named:
“Stronger Connections Grant”
under Fiscal Year **2024**



Complete All Required Sections in GME



FFATA & GSA Verification
FFATA & GSA Verification
Program Information / Instructions
Program Information / Instructions
Contact Information
Contact Information
Assurances
Assurances
Proportionate Share Determination
Proportionate Share Determination
Stronger Connections Grant
<input type="text" value="District Level"/>
Budget
Budget Overview
Stronger Connections Grant School Allocations

- ✓ The application includes both **District Level** and school **Site Level** budget sections
- ✓ The LEA should complete a **Site Level budget** for **each proposed participating school** included in the LEA application
- ✓ LEA-level activities, such as project administrative costs, should be budgeted at the District Level



Stronger Connections Grant
<input type="text" value="XYZ High School (999987999)"/>
Budget
Budget Overview
Program Narrative Questions
Related Documents
Stronger Connections Grant School Allocation



Overview of the Grant Application in GME



FFATA & GSA VERIFICATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION / INSTRUCTIONS

CONTACTS

ASSURANCES

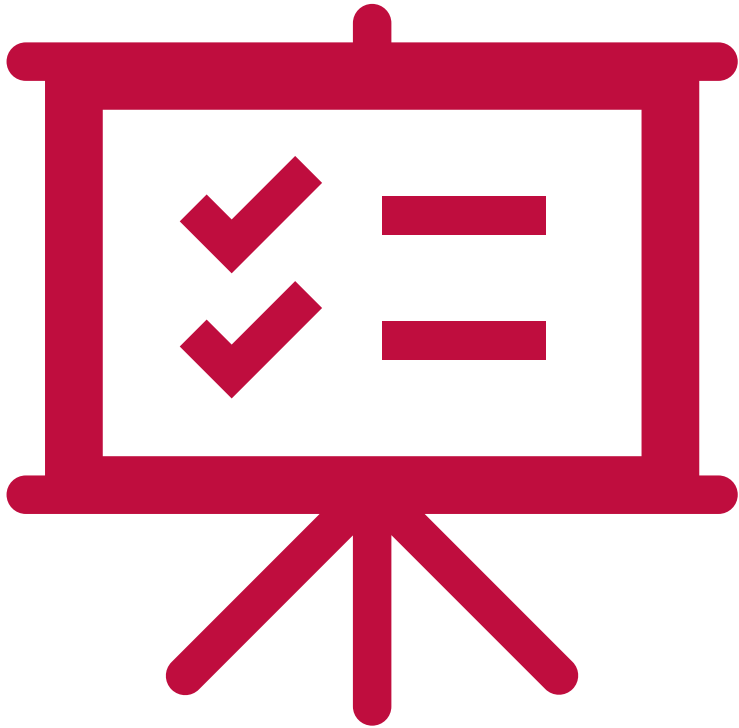
PROGRAM NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

BUDGET

PROPORTIONATE SHARE DETERMINATION *



FFATA and GSA Verification



- ✓ Be sure to submit your **FY24 General Statement of Assurance** in GME
- ✓ Ensure your **SAM.gov information** is up to date
- ✓ Provide a **short description** of your grant funded project



Program Information / Instructions



- ✓ This section includes general **program information and instructions** for LEA applicants
- ✓ Please also view the ***Stronger Connections Grant FY24 LEA Competitive Application Guidance*** for this competition and the ***Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) – FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric*** to help complete your application
- ✓ All **guidance documents and application resources** may be found at:
www.azed.gov/StrongerConnections



Contact Information



CONTACT INFORMATION

Required Contacts				
Stronger Connections Grant - LEA Primary Contact Name	Contact Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Additional Contacts - Participating Schools				
Participating School	SCG Participating School - Primary Contact Name(s)	Contact Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Here you must include **one primary LEA-level point of contact** - as well as **additional site-level points of contact** for all proposed schools included in the LEA's application



Assurances in GME

All assurances are required to be eligible to receive funding through the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant



Each assurance must be checked in this section

Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) - Grant Assurances

Checking "Yes" assures that the statement is true. All assurances are required to be answered as "Yes" for the LEA to be eligible to apply for the Stronger Connections Grant.

The Local Education Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Education Agency (SEA) that the LEA:

* Complies with: ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS

- The LEAs will ensure SCG funds are only used for activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA, as further defined and proscribed by ADE for the SCG program.

* Complies with: PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS

- The LEAs will ensure that SCG funds are not used for the provision to any person of a dangerous weapon* or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

[*A "dangerous weapon" is defined in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.]

* Complies with: LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT

- The LEAs will ensure that local, non-federal matching funds will be available and used to fulfill all required weapons trainings for School Safety Officers, as applicable, to ensure compliance with Section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which amends section 8526 of the ESEA.

* Complies with: ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The LEA ensures it will provide equitable services, as applicable, to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA, and ensure that:

- A public agency has title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with SCG funds.
- A public agency has title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with SCG funds.
- Services to a non-public school with SCG funds are provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.
- Equitable services provided with SCG funds are secular, neutral, and nonideological.

* Complies with: SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT

- The LEA ensures it will follow the supplement not supplant requirements in section 4110 of the ESEA for SCG funds.

* Complies with: MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

- The LEA ensures it will follow the Maintenance of Effort requirements in section 8521 of the ESEA for SCG funds.

* Complies with: LOCAL TRACKING OF FUNDS

- The LEA ensures it will track SCG funds received separately from its regular allocation under Title IV, Part A of the ESEA.

* Complies with: DATA REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- The LEA ensures it will participate, as requested, in any US Department of Education or ADE evaluation of the SCG program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds.

By checking the box below and signing my name, I attest that these assurances have happened or will happen:

* Yes

* Signature



Program Narrative Questions

The LEA must provide responses to each narrative question from the LEA perspective **and** on behalf of all schools proposed by the LEA to participate in the LEA's Stronger Connections Grant application.

All program narrative questions on this page must be addressed by the LEA

LEA Stronger Connections Grant – Program Narrative Questions:

* Please describe your LEA's current School Safety plan model at both the LEA and school level. Include how the addition of a School Safety Officer will further support the implementation of your plan:

* Please describe all current, or potentially new, community-based partnerships that may be in place, or available, to support the LEA's implementation of their School Safety plan:

* Please provide summary information regarding current (SY22-23) local school community crime rate / conditions, and provide the applicable data source:





Budget Notes

LEAs must complete a ***proposed*** budget as part of the LEA competitive application in the Grants Management system

Sufficient details must be provided in the Budget Narrative, and the LEA must:



LEAs may begin to obligate their grant funds after their application has been Substantially Approved by ADE

Stronger Connections Grant funds may be budgeted and expended through September 30, 2026

- ✓ Ensure they are only applying for a total award of up to \$500,000 for each proposed, participating school
- ✓ Ensure the detailed budget narrative is completed and coded correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with minimal to no mathematical errors
- ✓ Ensure that all requests for funds are reasonable, necessary, and allowable, per the requirements of the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program
- ✓ Ensure that all budgeted activities supplement, and do not supplant other non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used to pay for authorized activities

**The full Period Availability for the Stronger Connections Grant runs through September 30, 2026
Funds may not be drawn down until the LEA Application is approved**





Budget Notes

REMINDER:

- ✓ The application includes both District Level and school Site Level budget sections
- ✓ The LEA should complete a **Site Level budget** for each **proposed participating school** included in the LEA application
- ✓ LEA-level activities, such as project administrative costs, should be budgeted at the District Level

FFATA & GSA Verification

[FFATA & GSA Verification](#)

Program Information / Instructions

[Program Information / Instructions](#)

Contact Information

[Contact Information](#)

Assurances

[Assurances](#)

Proportionate Share Determination

[Proportionate Share Determination](#)

Stronger Connections Grant

District Level ▼

[Budget](#)

[Budget Overview](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant School Allocations](#)



Stronger Connections Grant

XYZ High School (999987999) ▼

[Budget](#)

[Budget Overview](#)

[Program Narrative Questions](#)

[Related Documents](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant School Allocation](#)



Proportionate Share Determination

LEA grantees must ensure they will provide equitable services, as applicable, to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under section 8501 of the ESEA. **Equitable services requirements do not apply to Charter LEAs**

Successful school district applicants will be required to complete applicable equitable services requirements, such as identifying eligible, participating private schools, calculating proportionate share and engaging in timely and meaningful consultation with officials from eligible private schools to determine how services would be provided to participating private schools

Successfully funded school district applicants for which equitable services requirements would apply will only be required to complete this section after they are provided notice of their award. Once approved, the LEA application will then be placed on a programmatic hold and the LEA will not be able to draw down funds until the equitable services process is completed

This section will be **hidden in the LEA application until the grant is placed into a Revision Status after LEA final awards have been determined. Additional guidance will be given to LEAs on how to complete this section at that time**



Prior to Grant Submission

- ✓ Ensure **FY24 GSA** is uploaded to GME
- ✓ Verify that the **FFATA brief summary** is completed
- ✓ Verify that all **Assurances** have been completed
- ✓ Verify that all **Program Narrative Questions** sections have been completed
- ✓ Ensure all proposed **budgeted activities** are **allowable** per the requirements of the competition and **coded properly** per the **USFR or USFRCS** (charter LEAs)



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric

All LEA Applications will be scored by ADE program staff using the **FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric**, which may be found on at www.azed.gov/StrongerConnections

LEA applications submitted by the competition deadline will first be reviewed for **administrative completeness**:



School Safety & Social Wellness

Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)
FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric

LEA Name	Entity ID #	CTDS #
LEA Primary Point of Contact	Email	Phone

Proposed Participating School(s)	Entity ID #	CTDS #	Budget Requested
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
SUBTOTAL			\$
Total LEA-Level Proposed Budget			\$
TOTAL ALL			\$

LEA Application Administrative Completeness Review Checklist	
LEA Application Submitted by the Application Deadline	
FFATA / GSA Section Completed	
LEA Assurances Fully Completed	
LEA and Participating School(s) Contact Information Fully Completed	
Proposed Budget Completed	
Program Narrative Questions Completed	
LEA Application Checklist Reviewed with No Deficiencies	



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric



School Safety & Social Wellness

Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)
FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric

LEA Application Scoring Summary

Points will then be provided based on how the LEA meets the **Competitive Preference Priorities**, and then the application will be scored per the **Application Requirements**:

Total Possible Points	Points Earned	Competitive Preference Priorities
20		LEA received an award for the state School Safety Program (SSP) grant, but was unable to hire an SRO
10		LEA has high reported local school community crime rate / conditions data
5		LEA is considered a 'Small LEA', with a total a K-12 enrollment of 600 students or less
5		LEA is defined as 'Rural' by the State, per ARS §15-249.13
10		LEA is considered a 'Rural and Remote' LEA (all schools in the LEA are defined as Rural Fringe, Distant or Remote (NCES Local Code 41, 42, or 43)
Total Points		Competitive Preference Priorities

Total Possible Points	Points Earned	Application Requirements
15		Quality of the Project Budget
30		Quality of LEA and School Level School Safety Plan
25		Quality of Community-Based Partnerships to Support Local Implementation
30		Severity of Local School Community Crime Rate / Conditions
100		Application Requirements

Scorer Name	Total Points Available	Total Points Earned	Date	Initials



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric

The following is the **LEA Application Requirements Scoring Rubric**:



School Safety & Social Wellness | **Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)**
FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric

LEA Application Requirements Scoring Rubric

	0-5	6-10	11-15	
Quality of the Project Budget (15 Points)	Budget contains multiple errors and insufficient details Budget contains unallowable activities per the SCG allowable activities framework Total proposed budget per school exceeds the \$500,000 per school maximum	Budget narrative contains sufficient details, coded mostly correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with some mathematical errors Budget elements are allowable per the SCG allowable activities framework, but additional detail may be required to confirm all are reasonable and necessary	Detailed budget narrative completed and coded correctly per the USFR / USFRCS with minimal to no mathematical errors All budget elements are reasonable, necessary and allowable per the SCG allowable activities framework	
				Total Points



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric

The following is the **LEA Application Requirements Scoring Rubric**:

	School Safety & Social Wellness	Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)
		<i>FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric</i>

	0-10	11-20	21-30	
Quality of LEA and School Level School Safety Plan (30 Points)	LEA response is vague and unclear LEA response does not include information on behalf of all LEA proposed participating schools	LEA plan is clear with generally sufficient details provided for both the LEA and all proposed participating schools	LEA plan is clear and detailed for both the LEA and all proposed participating schools	
				Total Points

	0-8	9-17	18-25	
Quality of Community-Based Partnerships to Support Local Implementation (25 Points)	LEA response is vague and unclear	LEA response includes general details outlining relevant local community-based partnerships Response is not fully clear on how partnerships would be leveraged to support the implementation of their School Safety plan	LEA plan is clear and detailed and includes information on how both existing and potential new partnerships would be leveraged to support the implementation of their School Safety plan	
				Total Points



LEA Application Scoring Criteria & Rubric

The following is the **LEA Application Requirements Scoring Rubric**:



**School Safety &
Social Wellness**

Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)

FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric

	0-10	11-20	21-30	
Severity of Local School Community Crime Rate / Conditions (30 Points)	LEA response is vague and unclear	General information on school community crime rate / conditions are provided. However, relevant data sources are not fully cited	Clear, detailed information on school community crime rate / conditions are provided. Relevant data sources are clearly identified and fully cited	
				Total Points

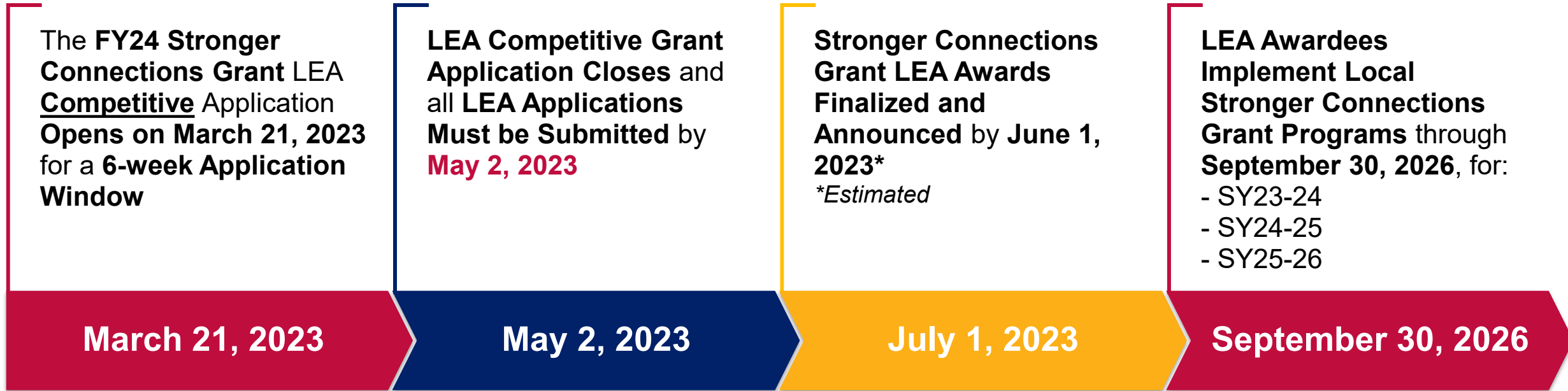


Application Directions Reminders

- ✓ Review the ***Stronger Connections Grant FY24 LEA Competitive Application Guidance*** for this competition
- ✓ Eligible LEA and School teams collaborate to complete the application, provide all required documentation, and check and sign all assurances
- ✓ Use the ***Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) – FY24 LEA Competitive Application Scoring Rubric*** when completing the application, to include the program narrative questions section
- ✓ Application completion with **all required documents** in GME by **May 2, 2023** is required. Additional inquiries from ADE will not be made. **If all required documents are not in GME, the application will not be scored**
- ✓ The application will be scored using the **scoring rubric** provided
- ✓ Awards will be made based on the scored rubric. **Seventy percent (70%) of points is required for funding.** The total awards made will be driven by the quality of scored applications and the total of available funding
- ✓ LEAs will be notified of award or non-award by July 1, 2023



LEA Competitive Application Timeline Review



The full Period of Availability for the Stronger Connections Grant runs through September 30, 2026



Stronger Connection Grant – Contacts & Resources



**Thank you for viewing
this webinar!**

Please visit
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