

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA # GD0—SCG – 23
District of Columbia
Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)



**Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
Stronger Connections Grant**

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date

May 15, 2023

Pre-Application Webinars (Mandatory)

May 25 and 31, 2023

Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline (Mandatory)

May 24, 2023

Application Submission Deadline

June 30, 2023

THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR REVIEW ONLY.
APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH
THE ENTERPRISE GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EGMS) AT
<http://grants.osse.dc.gov>

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Checklist for Application

FY23 Stronger Connections Grant

- The applicant submitted a Notice of Intent to Apply on or before **Wednesday, May 24, 2023, by 3:00 pm**. The Notice of Intent to Apply form can be found in Appendix A and on the OSSE website linked [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant](#) under [Application and Funding](#).
- The applicant attended one of the two **mandatory** pre-application webinars. Please see Request for Application (RFA) Section 2.2 for webinar dates, times, and registration.
- The applicant completed all steps required by the RFA and submitted a complete application, through OSSE’s Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) that contains all the required information and attachments. Please see RFA Section 3 for an overview of the application.
- The application adheres to the directions and criteria of each section of this RFA.
- The application was submitted **by 3 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023**, through EGMS.

PLEASE NOTE

Applications are due by 3 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023.

The application deadline will be strictly enforced. Applications submitted after 3:00 p.m. EST on Friday, June 30, 2023, will not be reviewed.

All applications must be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System](#) (EGMS). This application will be open for 30 business days. OSSE strongly recommends submitting applications early to ensure that avoidable technical issues do not result in missing the application deadline.

Request for Applications
RFA# GD0-SCG-23

Section 1: General Information

1.1 Introduction

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Grant

On June 25, 2022, Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) to promote access to behavioral and mental health services, enhance school safety and security initiatives, and address gun violence in communities. One of the provisions appropriated \$1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for SEAs to competitively award subgrants to high-need LEAs to establish and support safer and healthier learning environments in schools, and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities. The United States Department of Education (USED) has named this the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG).

1.2 Purpose of Funds

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act - Stronger Connections Grant (BSCA-SCG) focuses on improving conditions for student learning by encouraging schools to implement a comprehensive plan incorporating evidence-based activities, programs, and practices to create safer and healthier learning environments which promote positive school climates as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 4108.

1.3 Source of Funding

The U.S. Department of Education, through the Stronger Connections grant program, 84.424F; as authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, effective September 15, 2022 (Pub. L. 112-10; 125 Stat. 201). Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) S424F220009 (\$4,833,025.00).

1.4 Requirements of Funding

This grant award is subject to this RFA, the assurances made in the submitted application, and the terms of the grant award notification, as well as all applicable federal and District statutes, regulations, Mayor's Orders and Executive Orders, including:

- The U.S. Department of Treasury's Final Rule at 31 CFR Part 35;
- 2 C.F.R. Part 25, Universal Identifier and System for Award Management;
- 2 C.F.R. Part 170, Reporting Sub award and Executive Compensation Information;
- 2 C.F.R. Part 180, OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government Wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement); and
- 2 C.F.R. Part 200, The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements.

Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized by relevant statutes and regulations and included in the applicant's submission. Further, this grant award is made

subject to the terms, conditions, and provisions of the assurances made in the submitted application, and the terms of the Grant Award Notice (GAN) issued by OSSE to the subgrantee.

1.5 Funds Available and Funding Period

At least \$4,591,374 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$200,000.00 for each school award to local education agencies (LEAs). LEAs may apply for awards for one project for each eligible school in the LEA.

The grant's availability period will be July 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2026. Funds must be spent or obligated by September 30, 2026. This period includes the additional one-year period of funding availability provided under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (the Tydings Amendment). We do not anticipate any further extension period for these funds, or any reauthorizations for additional funds.

1.6 Criteria

Eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must meet the following criteria:

1. Eligible for the Title I-A grant in fiscal year 2023 (FY23); OR
2. An LEA with at least 30% of students from households living in poverty and at least one school with a rate of chronic absenteeism greater than 10% (either all students or one the specific groups of students identified in the statewide accountability system).

The list of high-need LEAs in D.C. is [here](#).

1.7 Use of Funds

Stronger Connections Grant funds must be used by LEAs to support schools within the LEA to develop, enhance or expand their School Strengthening Work Plan (Work Plan), submitted to the DC Department of Behavioral Health. The Work Plans are based on a needs assessment, address the mental and behavioral health needs of the school community, are aligned to a multi-tiered system of support, and have goals related to student outcomes.

LEAs may apply for SCG funds to support school projects that build upon or strengthen their Work Plan to increase the impact of the plan. Project activities must be allowable in the ESSA [Section 4108](#) uses of funds. Prioritized activities are listed in section 4.2 below.

SCG funds may not be used for personnel or subcontract expenditures for mental or behavioral health service providers. Funds allocated under the program must be administered and tracked separately from an LEA's regular Title IV-A formula award, if applicable.

All costs in the application budget must:

- Meet requirements of permissible use of federal funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted in 2 CFR Part 3474, 2 CFR Part 180 as adopted in 2 CFR 3485;
- Align with and support the project(s) described in the LEA's application.
- Be allocable to the grant's program, reasonable, and necessary to support the grant objectives.

1.8 Prohibited Uses of Funds

SCG funds may not be used for:

- 1) Personnel or subcontract expenditures for mental or behavioral health service providers.
- 2) The provision to any person of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon as prohibited under Section 13401 of BSCA, which amends [Section 8526 Prohibited Uses of Funds](#) of the ESEA.

1.9 Grant Award Payments

In accordance with 2 CFR section 200.305(b)(3) of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, OSSE has implemented a reimbursement process for all subrecipients. Subrecipients shall receive payments for services that have been rendered and for costs that have been paid (not merely incurred) after they substantiate that the cost is allowable for submitted program expenditures.

The funds associated with this RFA are available on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures. Grant recipients are required to comply with OSSE's [Grantee Reimbursement Request Submission Policy](#), which stipulates that grant recipients must submit at least one reimbursement per quarter in which the grant recipient expended funds. The LEA should submit at least one reimbursement request by the last day of the month that follows the end of the quarter (Jan. 31st, Apr. 30th, Jul. 31st, and Oct. 31st), Once OSSE has fully approved the application and issued an official Grant Award Notification (GAN), subrecipients may then receive payment for allowable expenditures made during the grant period through the reimbursement request process. To receive a reimbursement for grant program expenditures, OSSE subrecipients must complete and submit the applicable reimbursement request electronically via the EGMS.

1.10 Equitable Services

Each applicable LEA (District of Columbia Public Schools only) receiving a Stronger Connections subgrant must, after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate non-public school officials, provide eligible non-public school students and educators services and other benefits that are equitable in comparison to services and other benefits provided with Stronger Connections funds to public school students and educators. (ESEA section 8501(a)(1), (3)(A)).

Section 2: Schedule

2.1 RFA Release

The release date of the RFA is May 15, 2023. The RFA is available online at [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant](#) under [Application and Funding](#).

2.2 Pre-Application Webinar

Pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- To register for this webinar, use this link [Register](#)
- Tuesday, May 31, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- To register for this webinar, use this link [Register](#)

Each applicant must have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars to meet the attendance requirement for this grant. Webinar attendance is tracked electronically through registration and online attendance.

2.3 Intent to Apply

All eligible entities seeking to receive funding under this RFA must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (Appendix A), signed by an authorized official of the organization, via email to Mildred.Washington@dc.gov on or before Friday, May 24, 2023 by 3:00 pm.

2.4 Contact Person and Questions

The following OSSE staff member is the authorized contact person for this grant competition: Bonnie Bacon, Grant Manager, Office of Federal Programs and Strategic Funding (Bonnie.Bacon@dc.gov)

Questions may be submitted to Mildred.Washington@dc.gov until Friday, May 12, 2023, at 5 p.m. Please use the subject line: **RFA# GDO-SCG-23**. To promote fairness and ensure all applicants have access to the same information about the grant application process, any questions received after the May 12, 2023 deadline will not be answered. Questions and answers received by the deadline will be posted on the OSSE [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant](#) webpage Friday, May 26, 2023.

2.5 Application Due Date

Applications are due Friday, June 30, 2023, by 3 p.m. and must be submitted through EGMS. OSSE strongly encourages all applicants to submit their application at least one day early to ensure that technical issues do not result in missing the application deadline.

2.6 Updates

Information and updates regarding the grant competitions will be emailed to all potential applicants that submit a Notice of Intent to Apply and/or attend a pre-application webinar specific to this grant.

2.7 Awards Announcement

Awards will be announced via EGMS, email, and the OSSE website. OSSE will disseminate grant award notifications via EGMS following the awards announcement.

Section 3: Application

3.1 Application Content

The application in EGMS contains all of the following sections or "tabs." Unless otherwise noted, each section must be completed as instructed in the system:

- Section 1 – Overview (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Program Information (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Uses of Funds (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Project Requirements (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Reimbursement Requirements (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Application Review and Scoring – Review Panel and Selection Process (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Application Review and Scoring – Scoring Rubric (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Section A Priority Points
 - Section B High Need School
 - Section C Project Description
 - Section D Connection to the SSWP
 - Section E Evidence-Based
 - Section F Stakeholder Engagement
 - Section G Budget
 - Scoring Summary (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 2 – Contact Information
- Section 3 – Award Administration (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 4 - Funding Distribution (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 5 – Project Description (one project plan will need to be completed for each school's project)
 - School Name
 - Total Funds Requested
 - Upload School Strengthening Work Plan
 - Description of Project
 - Connection to the development of the SSWP
 - Project's place in the SSWP
 - Connection to the SSWP's goals

- Evidence-base to support the project
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Prioritized Area
- Section 6 – Equitable Services (DCPS only)
 - Upload description of activities to support equitable services
- Section 7 - Budget
 - Budget Instruction (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Budget Data Import
 - Salaries and Benefits
 - Professional Services
 - Equipment
 - Supplies and Materials
 - Fixed Property Costs (*informational; nothing to complete*)
 - Other Objects
 - Budget Summary (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 7 – Assurances
 - Program Specific Assurances
 - Assurance Summary
- Section 8 – Submit (*application will not be received by OSSE until it is submitted through this tab*)
 - Run Consistency Check
 - Submit Application
- Section 9 – Application History (*informational; nothing to complete for the application*)
- Section 10 - Application Print (*hard copies of applications may be printed through this tab; nothing to complete for the application*)

Section 4: Scoring

4.1 Review Panel

The grant described in this RFA will be awarded competitively. A panel or panels of external reviewers will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a Conflict of Interest statement. The application will be scored against a rubric, which can be found on the OSSE [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant](#) under [Application and Funding](#). OSSE may convene any panel to conduct a facilitated discussion of the reviewers' scores and comments of a particular application. A facilitated discussion provides an opportunity for reviewers to hear other panel members' reasoning for their scores and comments. A reviewer is not required to change their scores or comments after a facilitated discussion.

Upon completion of the panels' review, the panels shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent of Education, or his/her/their

designee, will consider those recommendations but all final award decisions are left to the Superintendent's, or his/her/their designee's, discretion. Winning applicants may be required to make amendments to the Budget or other application sections to meet grant requirements. A denied applicant may file an appeal of OSSE's award determination within 30 days of receipt of award denial notification on the grounds that OSSE violated a District or federal statute or regulation. If LEAs want to appeal an application decision, please refer to [Complaint Procedures for Elementary and Secondary Education Act Programs and Grants](#).

4.2 Priority

1. Prioritized Activities

SCG supports projects that enhance or expand the activities and impact of School Strengthening Work Plans. Applicants will describe the activity to be funded and how it will help the school meet its Work Plan's goals. Schools may propose any activity that is aligned with their Work Plan, but OSSE has identified three prioritized areas of improvement to support safer and healthier learning environments in schools for this grant. Additional points will be given in the review process for school projects that include activities to support the following initiatives:

- **[School Climate and Culture](#)**: OSSE provides for LEAs and schools to develop an MTSS, and the School Strengthening Work Plans are based in the MTSS structure. To be the most effective, the system should be robust and implemented across the school's systems with fidelity by trained staff.
- **Professional development for staff to create a safe and positive school culture**: Training on how to resolve conflicts, including de-escalation techniques and restorative practices in school environments can help eliminate harmful discipline practices, including out-of-school suspensions, and create safer learning environments for students.
- **Implementation or improvement of an early warning system to identify students in crisis**: Studies show that the COVID-19 pandemic has had negative effects on students' mental health, with increases in self-injury and suicide at record rates. Schools equipped to identify students early, can connect them to appropriate DBH support services.

2. Prioritized Schools

SCG supports high-need LEAs. Applications for projects at schools that meet the same criteria for the high-need definition for LEAs will be given additional points in the review process. A list of the schools that meet the high-need definition is linked [here](#).

4.3 Awards

Applications are ranked by reviewer scores and the highest-ranking applications are funded until available funding is exhausted.

OSSE reserves the right to fund applicants at a lesser amount than requested if it is deemed that the project can be implemented with less funding than requested or if federal funding is not sufficient to fully fund all applications that merit award.

Section 5: Award Administration

5.1 Decision and Notifications of Awards

To be awarded a grant, LEAs must establish eligibility by submitting an application to OSSE in accordance with the relevant program statute(s) and this RFA. Each awarded applicant will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN), via EGMS, that will include the award amount, award agreement, terms and conditions of the award, and any supplemental information required.

5.2 Audits

At any time, or times, before final payment and during the required record retention period, the District and/or the federal government may audit the applicant's expenditure statements and source documentation.

5.3 Monitoring and Reporting

All awards will be reviewed during the grant period for compliance with programmatic and fiscal requirements. OSSE's Division of Systems and Supports, K-12 uses an annual, risk-based monitoring approach. The type of monitoring that the subgrantee will receive (desktop or on-site) will vary depending on its designation as a high, medium, or low risk subgrantee.

Monitoring efforts are designed to determine the recipient's level of compliance with federal and/or District requirements and identify specifically whether the grantee's operational, financial and management systems and practices are adequate to account for program funds in accordance with federal and/or District requirements. Failure to maintain compliance with such requirements may result in payment suspension, disallowance of costs or termination of the grant.

The recipient shall be required to cooperate with all requirements and information requests by OSSE and the United States Department of Education relating to evaluation of the program and the collection of data, information, and reporting on outcomes regarding the program and activities carried out with grant funds. The recipient shall be required to reply and acknowledge OSSE's information requests by the deadlines stated in the requests.

5.4 Confidentiality

Except as otherwise provided by local or federal law, no recipient of the grant shall use or reveal any research, statistical information, or personally identifiable information furnished by OSSE for any person or for any purpose other than that for which such information was obtained in accordance with the OSSE program funded. Any identifiable personal information, and any copy of such information, shall be immune from legal process and shall not, without the written consent of the person identified in the information, be admitted as evidence or

used for any purpose in any action, suit, or judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding. The grantee will protect any personally identifiable information (PII) received in administering the grant and follow all applicable laws regarding the protection and use of the PII. Before disclosing PII to any other party, the grantee must first receive approval from OSSE.

5.5 Nondiscrimination in the Delivery of Services

The recipient shall comply with the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, (D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, source of income, disability, status as a victim of an interfamily offense, or place of residence or business, or credit information.

5.6 Conflict of Interest

All grant recipients shall ensure that no individual in a decision-making capacity will engage in any activity, including participation in the selection of a vendor, the administration of an award, or an activity supported by award funds, if a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest would be involved. A conflict of interest would arise when the individual, any member of the individual's immediate family, the individual's partner; or an organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the aforementioned, has a financial or personal interest in the firm or organization selected for a contract.

5.7 Vaccination Requirements

The grant recipient must comply with all District laws and regulations and Mayor's Orders regarding District COVID vaccination requirements.

5.9 Terms and Conditions

- Funding for this award is contingent on available funds.
- The RFA does not commit OSSE to make an award. OSSE reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications. OSSE shall notify the applicant if it rejects that applicant's proposal.
- OSSE may suspend or terminate an outstanding RFA pursuant to its own grant-making rule(s) or any applicable federal or local regulation or requirement.
- OSSE reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the RFA, or to rescind the RFA.
- OSSE shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of applications in response to the RFA. Applicant agrees that all costs incurred in developing the application are the applicant's sole responsibility.
- OSSE may conduct pre-award on-site visits to verify information submitted in the application and to determine if the applicant's facilities are appropriate for the services intended.

- Grantees may be required to attend one or more post-award meetings or webinars reviewing grant requirements. Information about these meeting(s) and/or webinar(s) will be shared with grantees in advance.
- OSSE may enter into negotiations with an applicant and adopt a firm funding amount or other revision of the applicant's proposal that may result from negotiations.
- OSSE shall provide the citations to the statute and implementing regulations that authorize the grant or sub-grant; all applicable federal and District regulations; payment provisions identifying how the grantee will be paid for performing under the award; reporting requirements, including programmatic, financial and any special reports required by OSSE; and compliance conditions that must be met by the grantee.
- If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of the RFA and any applicable federal or local law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, then the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, personal appearance, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business in its programs and activities. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is prohibited by the D.C. Human Rights Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above-protected categories is prohibited. Discrimination in violation of the aforementioned laws will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

For further information on Federal non-discrimination regulations, contact the Office for Civil Rights at ocr.dc@ed.gov, call (800) 872-5327, or visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>.

For further information on the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, contact the D.C. Office of Human Rights at ohr@dc.gov, call or call (202) 727-4559 or visit www.ohr.dc.gov.

Appendix A

**Bipartisan Safer Communities Act: Stronger Connections Grant
RFA# GD0-SCG-23**

Official Intent to Apply Notification

*(Must complete and submit this form by email to: Mildred.Washington@dc.gov
no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023)
(PDF Submission Preferred)*

TO: OSSE Division of Systems and Supports, K-12

Attn: Bonnie Bacon

Bonnie.Bacon@dc.gov

FROM: _____

(LEA or Organization Name)

RE: Intent to Apply for FY 2024 **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act: Stronger
Connections Grant**

LEA or Organization Name: _____

LEA or Organization Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Person Telephone #: _____

Contact Person Email: _____

* * *

I understand that the deadline for the grant application is 3 p.m. on June 7, 2023 and that late applications will not be reviewed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(LEA or Organization Official)

Appendix B

Program Specific Assurances

Applicants will be required to attest to the following program specific assurances:

1. The LEA shall administer the Stronger Connections grant program in accordance with BSCA PL 117-159, ESEA Sec. 4801, and all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and approved applications. ESEA Sec. 4801(a)(1).
2. The control of funds provided under the program, and title to property acquired with those funds, will vest in the LEA and that LEA shall administer those funds and property in accordance with applicable regulations. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(2).
3. The applicant will adopt and use proper methods of administering the program, including (A) the enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out the program; and (B) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(3).
4. The applicant will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of the program conducted by or for the State educational agency, the Secretary of Education, or other Federal official. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(4).
5. The LEA shall use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that must ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds paid to the LEA under the program. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(5).
6. The LEA shall submit such reports to the OSSE (which shall make the reports available to the Mayor) and to the U.S. Secretary of Education as the OSSE and the U.S. Secretary of Education may require to enable the OSSE and the Secretary to perform their duties under the program; and maintain such records, provide such information, and afford such access to the records as the OSSE (after consultation with the Mayor) or the U.S. Secretary of the Education may reasonably require to carry out the OSSE or U.S. Secretary's duties. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(6).
7. Before the application was submitted, the LEA afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the application and considered such comment. ESEA Sec. 8306(a)(7).
8. The LEA is in compliance with D.C. Code § 38-231 et seq., which states that a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to school is subject to expulsion for a period of not less than one (1) year. ESEA Sec. 8561(d).
9. Any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to the program shall be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public. The LEA must develop school plans for comprehensive support and improvement schools with input from the stakeholder groups outlined in ESEA Sec. 1111(d). The LEA must make school plans available and provide ongoing updates to the community on progress on a minimum of an annual basis.
10. The LEA must ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs, as required by Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). The statute highlights six types

of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, and age.

11. The LEA acknowledges and agrees that the completion of this application, or the approval to fund an application, will not be deemed to be a binding obligation of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) until such time as the Grant Award Notification (GAN) is delivered to the applicant.
12. The LEA shall receive prior written approval of a revised LEA application from the OSSE before implementing any project changes with respect to the purposes for which the proposed funds are awarded.
13. Each school the LEA proposes to serve will receive all of the State and local funds it would have received in the absence of this grant award. (ESEA Sec. 1003(e)(2)).