

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY GRANTS

2018 IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW



Purpose

School Safety and Security Grants established in 2018 Act 190 allocated \$4M for school safety infrastructure improvements grants and allowed for schools to apply for capital-eligible equipment. The funding allowed “planning, delivery, and installation of equipment for upgrades to existing school security equipment and for new school security equipment identified through threat assessment planning and surveys designed to enhance building security.” Act 190 capped grants at \$25,000.

Grant Program Development

- 12-member School Safety Working Group (SSWG) comprised of emergency services personnel, school officials, and Vermont School Crisis Planning Team members was assembled to advise and make final recommendation to Department of Public Safety (DPS) Commissioner on grant awards.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) were developed by DPS and reviewed by SSWG. RFP included explanation of the scoring mechanism and the prioritization of equipment to achieve basic security measures across schools.
- Three categories of security upgrades/ equipment were prioritized:
 - Exterior door locking mechanisms
 - Interior door locking mechanisms so that all interior doors have the ability to be locked
 - Mass notification devices/public address systems to ensure all those inside/outside school buildings can be informed of an emergency.
- Funding categories were determined by SSWG based on the School Safety Best Practice Recommendations published by Vermont School Crisis Planning Team. The priorities establish a baseline of security enhancements for schools that apply without excluding schools in need of additional capital-eligible enhancements.
- Other capital-eligible equipment was allowable but scored less due to lower prioritization. Eligible equipment list is attached.
- Applications were also scored on demonstrated need, how equipment would be used, implementation of security upgrades into school’s overall emergency plan, etc.

Application Review and Awards

- 267 schools applied for over 660 separate projects. The SSWG scored every individual project over a 10-day period in July after DPS staff processed all the applications. All projects were ranked by mean project score.

- Results
 - 560 projects were recommended for funding and 102 were not.
 - 239 schools of the 267 schools that applied received funding (partial or full)
 - 9 eligible schools received no funding
 - 16 ineligible (independent) schools applied and were not funded
 - Average grant \$16,000
 - Total Grant Requests received - \$4,779,614
 - Total Awarded- \$3,998,241 (\$781,373 grant requests that were not able to be funded)

| Project Types and Funding Awarded | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Cameras | Access Control | Locks | Doors | Windows & Shades | Communication Devices | Alarms | Other (AED/go- bags/bleed kits) |
| 94 Schools | 95 Schools | 63 Schools | 51 Schools | 77 Schools | 125 Schools | 22 Schools | 33 Schools |
| \$788,450.86 | \$954,816.82 | \$360,716.01 | \$456,230.61 | \$383,179.97 | \$874,726.87 | \$104,973.89 | \$75,146.15 |