

# Stronger Connections Subgrant

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is the Stronger Connections Application due?

All applications are due **May 1, 2024**, at **11:59 pm**. No extensions will be granted.

2. How long will the district have to spend funds?

**Answer:** Districts can spend funds until July 2024-September 30, 2025. Funds are allocated for a 15-month period.

3. Are community non-profits eligible to apply?

**Answer:** No, non-profits are not eligible to apply for this grant directly. However, they can be a partner with the school district.

4. Will there be another round of funding after this round?

**Answer:** The US Department of Education stated in September 2022, this is a one time-funding. If that changes, we will provide updates.

5. Is this grant for schools only?

**Answer:** Yes, public school districts can apply for this grant. Private schools can partner with their local school district to participate in the services provided and the planning process for the subgrant program.

Schools are not eligible to apply as a standalone. All applications must be submitted by the school district on behalf of the schools.

6. Are LEAs (school districts) limited to one application/award?

**Answer:** Yes, eligible LEAs may only receive one grant to operate a Stronger Connections Program.

7. Can LEAs contract out services for longer than 15 months?

**Answer:** No, LEA's must adhere to the current funding period of the grant.

8. Is the intent to apply required?

**Answer:** No but is strongly recommended. The intent to submit helps us determine how many grant readers will be needed to review and score applications.

9. Who should submit the intent to apply?

**Answer:** The district must submit the intent to apply.

10. Is it up to the district to decide if a new school (opened 23-24) would be eligible?

**Answer:** The new school would be eligible for any services the district would provide as part of their comprehensive plan. Schools must have baseline data such as chronic absenteeism, bullying, and out of school suspensions.

11. Are personnel and benefits allowable expenditures?

**Answer:** Yes.

12. Are indirect costs allowable?

**Answer:** Yes, please contact your district finance person to get the allowable rate for your school district.

13. Will the grant be renewable? Meaning if we use these grant funds to hire someone, would this position be only for one year with no hope for a second year of employment?

**Answer:** The grant is not renewable.

14. Can an evaluator be budgeted?

**Answer:** Yes.

15. The FAQ from the federal government states the funds must be spent by 2026? Why does this grant have a timeline of 2025?

**Answer:** The additional year is a part of the Tydings Amendment.

16. Is there a recording available?

**Answer:** Yes, this is the link to the recording: [Stronger Connections](#). If you have additional questions, please submit them to [strongerconnections@ed.sc.gov](mailto:strongerconnections@ed.sc.gov).