



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)

Eligible Applicants

'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**

Competitive Preference Priorities

LEAs may qualify for additional points 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 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)

Timeline & Average Award Size

Project Start Date: July 1, 2023	The grant will allow for hiring and supporting School Safety Officer personnel over three school years: ▪ (SY23-24, SY24-25, and SY25-26)
Project End Date: September 30, 2026	
Average Award Size	LEAs may apply for up to \$500,000 total for each participating, eligible school

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

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 evidence-based 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