



New Hampshire

# Department of Education

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Round Three Security Action for Education (SAFE) Grant FAQ*

#### **1. What is the SAFE Grant?**

The Security Action for Education (SAFE) Grant was established in 2022 and includes funding from the Public School Infrastructure Fund. This fund's primary purpose is to support school security and safety improvements in the areas of access control, emergency alerting, and surveillance for K-12 public and nonpublic schools throughout New Hampshire.

#### **2. What is the funding source of the SAFE Grant?**

This grant is funded by NH state funding from Public School Infrastructure Fund.

#### **3. Who is eligible to apply for and receive a SAFE Grant?**

District and Chartered Public schools throughout New Hampshire are eligible to apply for a SAFE grant to support school security and safety improvements in the areas of access control, emergency alerting, and surveillance.

#### **4. What is the deadline to submit an application for a SAFE Grant?**

The deadline to submit an application is 11:59PM on November 30, 2023.

#### **5. Are applications approved on a first-come, first-served basis?**

Yes. Applications will be awarded on a first-in-first-out basis, except those applicants that did not receive an award in round 1 or round 2 (see FAQ 6 below).

#### **6. Is there any priority given to certain applicants?**

Yes. Schools that did not receive an award in Round 1 or Round 2 but submit a new eligible application will be prioritized.

#### **7. Where can I find more information about the SAFE Grants?**

You can find additional information about the SAFE Grants [HERE](#).

## **8. How do I apply for a SAFE Grant**

[APPLY HERE](#) (application link will be available at 10 a.m. on Oct. 30, 2023)

## **9. My school is not on the dropdown list on the application. What do I do?**

You may still file an application if your school does not appear on the dropdown list. Simply select “Other School” on the dropdown list and type in the name of your school. After submitting, please contact SAFE Grants support at [SAFEgrants@doe.nh.gov](mailto:SAFEgrants@doe.nh.gov)

## **10. How do I receive my SAFE grant funds?**

The SAFE grant is a reimbursement grant. In order to receive reimbursement, you will need to submit the following prior to receiving payment:

- 1) A completed attestation form signed by local first responders
- 2) Copy of the most recent fire inspection report
- 3) Copy of the minutes from any meeting where there was an authorization to expend funds for this project
- 4) Copy of the district wide maintenance plan (the part of the plan that addresses the item(s) related to this request)

## **11. Is there a requirement to submit an attestation?**

Yes. You need to submit an Attestation of Safety and Security Measures. You can find the attestation form [HERE](#).

## **12. I have applied for SAFE grants in the past and was not selected for funding. Will my application be considered for the new round of funding?**

No. We will be accepting new applications only. Unfunded applications remaining from Round 1 and Round 2 will not be considered, however a school may submit a new application for the same project.

## **13. Are there documents that I need to upload to complete the application process?**

No. You do not need to upload any documents to submit the application. However, you will need to upload certain documents on GMS (Grant Management System) prior to obtaining reimbursement. Please refer to question 10 for a list of those documents.

## **14. I am submitting multiple applications. Do I need to submit a unique completed attestation form from first responders for each application?**

If you are submitting multiple applications, you may list all of your projects on one attestation form to be signed by first responders. You can submit the same attestation form for all applications as long

as the project is listed on the signed form. The form must accompany each application.

**15. My school has not had a security assessment completed by NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management. Am I still eligible to apply?**

Yes, you may apply and are eligible to receive an award even if you have not had a security assessment by NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management. However, as a requirement for reimbursement, you must schedule an assessment prior to receiving payment.

**16. What is the deadline to commit/obligate funds?**

Funds for all Items of cost (services, equipment, supplies, etc.) must be obligated no later than June 30, 2024. All funds must be expended, and all activities completed by December 31, 2024. The last day to submit reimbursement requests is February 15, 2025.

**17. Are there waivers available to extend the deadline for funds obligated beyond June 30, 2024, or past December 31, 2024, for project completion?**

No, there are no waivers or extensions available.

**18. If a school budgeted funds specifically for costs related to this project, can they use these funds instead?**

If you have budgeted and approved funds specifically for this project prior to July 1, 2023, SAFE funding cannot be used to supplant those funds.

**19. What are some examples of allowable costs?**

Projects eligible for the SAFE grant must be school security and safety improvements in the areas of access control, emergency alerting, or surveillance. Some examples of allowable project costs include: electronic access systems, fencing, interior door locks, reinforced glass at ground level (access control); intercom systems and surveillance camera systems (surveillance); 2-way radios, door alarms, notification beacons (emergency alerting). The application form includes a drop-down menu in each of the categories.

**20. My school has a project that doesn't fall under any of the items listed in the drop-down menus for the three categories, but I believe it addresses access control, emergency alerting, or surveillance. Can I still apply?**

Yes. If your project doesn't fit into the items in the dropdown menu but addresses access control, emergency alerting, or surveillance, please use the "Other" option to submit the proposed project. All eligibility determinations will be made after the projects are received.

**21. Is there a local match required?**

No. The SAFE grant covers 100% of expenditures up to \$100,000.

**22. What is the maximum number of grants I can apply for?**

There is no maximum number of grants you can apply for. Applicants are required to submit an application for each school, and each application may cover only one project “category.” The categories are: access control, emergency alerting, and surveillance. For example, if you have a district-wide need for replacing door locks, you will need to enter an application for each school. This also means that if you have one school that needs both door locks (access control) and notification beacons (emergency alerting), you will need to fill out two applications, one for each project category at that school.

**23. What is the maximum amount of funds I can apply for per approved school?**

The maximum award to any one school will be \$100,000. If a school has multiple school approval IDs in the same building, the maximum allowed for that building is limited to \$100,000. For example, if you have a school building that educates grade 7-12 school you will have two approval IDs, one for grade 7-8 and the other for 9-12, however you will only be eligible for a total of \$100,000.

**24. Are indirect costs allowable?**

Yes. Additional information on indirect costs can be found on the NHED website [HERE](#). Approved Indirect Cost Rates for districts, SAUs, and non-profit institutions which have requested rate approval can be found [HERE](#).

**25. How long must SAFE Grants records be maintained?**

Documentation must be maintained relative to expenditures locally for no less than five years after the completion of the project.

**26. The guidelines sound like the funds must be spent by December 31, 2024. If this is true, would we be required to return any unspent funds by that date, even if we have ongoing expenses?**

Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis through monthly expenditure reports submitted via GMS, NHED’s grants management system. All expenses must be fully received or incurred, and services provided, completed, and/or operational by December 31, 2024. If you have not expended the full amount of your award by December 31, 2024, you can only be reimbursed for costs expended up to that deadline, provided that the project is substantially complete.

**27. Will there be an option for monthly or quarterly reimbursements, or will there be only one lump sum reimbursement at the completion of the project?**

Grants are managed in GMS, NHED’s grants management system, which requires monthly reporting. Expenditures can be submitted and reimbursed on a monthly basis.

**28. If a school is awarded a SAFE grant, what compliance obligations would be required to receive this grant?**

In connection with the performance of the grants, all grantees awards shall comply with all statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of State, county, or municipal authorities which shall impose any obligations or duty upon the Grantee, including the acquisition of any and all necessary permits.

**29. Is our school allowed to purchase any camera security system and/or telecommunication system we want, or are there restrictions on which systems we can purchase?**

While recipients of these funds are not required to comply with 2 CFR 200.216 regarding the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment, NHED strongly encourages all schools to follow the federal guidance on this matter to ensure the safety and security of school populations and to be eligible for federal funding for future upgrades to this equipment.

**30. What security and telecommunication systems are prohibited by 2 CFR 200.216?**

While recipients of these funds are not required to comply with 2 CFR 200.216 regarding the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment, NHED strongly encourages all schools to follow the federal guidance on this matter to ensure the safety and security of school populations and to be eligible for federal funding for future upgrades to this equipment.

The following are the requirements of 2CFR 200.216:

§ 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.

(a) Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:

(1) Procure or obtain;

(2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or

(3) Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(i) For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(ii) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

(iii) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected.

**31. Can we hire a School Resource Officer with these grant funds?**

No. Hiring a School Resource Officer is not an allowable use of SAFE grant funds. The designated areas of safety and security improvements funded by the grant are access control, emergency alerting, and surveillance.

**32. Are standalone preschools allowed to apply for this grant?**

No. This grant is to help improve the security in NH K-12 institutions only.

**33. What are the monitoring requirements for this grant?**

The grants are managed in GMS, NHED's grants management system, and schools are required to upload signed copies their GANs (Grant Award Notification agreements), to add budget lines, and to submit monthly reports on expenditures. There are no other monitoring requirements for these grants.

**34. What are the reporting requirements for the SAFE Grant?**

SAFE grants are managed in GMS, NHED's grants management system. Schools that receive SAFE Grants will be required to report monthly expenditures in GMS.

**35. Where can I find a list of grant requirements that must be completed?**

You can find a list and description of grant requirements [HERE](#).

**36. How should these funds be recorded on the DOE-25?**

Funding originates from the Public School Infrastructure Fund and the revenue code on the DOE-25 should be recorded as 3290 (Other Restricted State Aid).

**37. When can I start spending these funds? Do we have to wait on Fiscal and Governor & Council approval?**

You may not obligate funds until the grant is awarded. We will present a list of awardees to the Public School Infrastructure Committee in December, after the application window closes. The committee will make award recommendations. Awards will then be approved by the Legislative Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council during a regularly scheduled meeting, likely during January, February, or March. You may be requested to submit more information upon request.

**38. My school is a Stronger Connections grant recipient. Can I still apply for the SAFE grants?**

Yes. The Stronger Connections Grant, although aimed at school security, is processed differently. Being a stronger connections grant recipient has no bearing on the SAFE grants. Please apply for the SAFE grant even if you are a Stronger Connections grant recipient.