



New Hampshire

Department of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

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, as well as an additional \$10 million in funding from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Act allocated to the Department of Education (NHED) by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). 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?

There are two funding sources for the SAFE Grant: \$3 million in NH state funding from the Public School Infrastructure Fund, and \$10 million in federal funding from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Act, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(C) (SLFRF.)

3. How will I know if my school was awarded a grant funded with state Public School Infrastructure Funds or with federal funding?

SAFE grants to nonpublic schools are supported only by federal funding from the Covid-19 American Rescue Plan Act, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF.) Public and chartered public schools are eligible for funding from both state and federal sources. Public schools who applied by the first round deadline of July 22, 2021 and receive a first round award will be funded with by state funds. All other public school awards will be funded with federal funds. Your award number will be begin with an "S" for state funded grants, and with and "F" for federally funded grants.

4. Who is eligible to apply for and receive a SAFE Grant?

All K-12 public and nonpublic 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.

5. What is the deadline to submit an application for a SAFE Grant?

The first deadline to submit was Friday, July 22nd at 11:59pm EST.

The second deadline to submit is Friday, August 26th at 11:59pm EST.

6. Are applications approved on a first-come, first-served basis?

No. All applications will be risk-ranked by Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) before awards are made.

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

You can find the link to the application for the SAFE Grant [HERE](#).

9. What is required to apply for a SAFE Grant?

In order to apply, all public and nonpublic school applicants must have:

- 1) A Unique Entity ID provided by SAM.gov
- 2) A project proposal that will improve security in your school in the areas of Access Control, Emergency Alerting, or Surveillance
- 3) An estimated project cost, milestones, description of work to be completed, and a maintenance plan for your project
- 4) A completed attestation form by local first responders
- 5) Copy of the most recent fire inspection report

10. What is SAM.gov?

SAM stands for “System for Award Management.” SAM.gov is the system the federal government uses to manage all grants and awards. Because the SAFE grant is a federal award, all awardees receiving federal funds must be registered with SAM.gov and receive a UEI, or Unique Entity ID [HERE](#).

11. What is a UEI?

The UEI or Unique Entity ID is the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government as of April 4, 2022. It is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov.

12. My school is a non-public school. Do I still need to receive a UEI from SAM.gov?

Yes. All schools including public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools need to have a UEI.

13. How do I get a UEI?

You can find a quick guide to getting a UEI [HERE](#). You can also watch this captioned video [HERE](#)

14. Do I have to fully register with SAM.gov to get a UEI?

No. Getting the UEI is a relatively simple process. Make sure you select “Get a Unique Entity ID” when you start the process. The data fields required to get a UEI are your entity’s legal business name and physical address (as they appear on your IRS documents.) A post office box may not be used as your physical address. The system may also ask for your date and state of incorporation for entity validation, and some entities may be asked to provide additional business documents to establish their identity.

15. Are there documents that I need to upload to complete the application process?

Yes. You must upload a completed attestation form by local first responder and a copy of the most recent fire inspection report. You can find a sample attestation form [HERE](#). If you are having trouble contacting your local first responders, please contact the School Readiness Program at schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov

16. 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.

17. 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 complete an assessment by December 31, 2024.

18. My school is not on the dropdown list on the application. What do I do?

Please contact SAFE Grants support at SAFEgrants@doe.nh.gov.

19. 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, 2023. All funds must be expended and all activities completed by December 31, 2024. The last day to submit reimbursement requests is also December 31, 2024.

20. Are there waivers available to extend the deadline for funds obligated beyond June 30, 2023, or past December 31, 2024, for project completion?

No, there are no waivers or extensions available.

21. 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, 2022, SAFE funding cannot be used to supplant those funds.

22. 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 to help you align your project with grant funding priorities. All costs charged under this contract shall be determined as allowable under the cost principles detailed in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles.

23. 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.

24. Is there a local match required?

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

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

There is no maximum number of grants you can apply for. Because of the ranking, 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.

26. 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.

27. Are indirect costs allowable?

Yes. Pursuant to the SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions, recipients are permitted to charge both direct and indirect costs to their SLFRF award as administrative costs as long as they are accorded consistent treatment per 2 CFR 200.403. Direct costs are those that are identified specifically as costs of implementing the SLFRF program objectives, such as contract support, materials, and supplies for a project. Indirect costs are general overhead costs of an organization where a portion of such costs are allocable to the SLFRF award such as the cost of facilities or administrative functions. Each category of cost should be treated consistently in like circumstances as direct or indirect, and recipients may not charge the same administrative costs to both direct and indirect cost categories, or to other programs. If a recipient has a current Negotiated Indirect Costs Rate Agreement (“NICRA”) established with a Federal cognizant agency responsible for reviewing, negotiating, and approving cost allocation plans or indirect cost proposals, then the recipient may use its current NICRA. Alternatively, if the recipient does not have a NICRA, the recipient may elect to use the de minimis rate of 10 percent of the modified total direct costs pursuant to 2 CFR 200.414(f).

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](#),

28. My school has not submitted an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) within the last 12 months. Am I still eligible?

Yes. You are still eligible to apply if you have not submitted an Emergency Operations Plane (EOP) within the last 12 months. However, you will need to submit an EOP prior to receiving reimbursement from a SAFE grant award.

29. 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.

30. Can schools move expenses already incurred (or to be incurred prior to the award date) and reimbursed out of the ESSER Grants and into SAFE?

No. If you have budgeted funds specifically for this project prior to July 1, 2022, SAFE federal funding cannot be used to supplant those funds. You may not obligate federal funds until the grant is awarded.

31. 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 via one reimbursement payment after project completion and submittal of the Project Completion & Request for Payment Form. 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.

32. 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?

There will be only one reimbursement, made after the project is completed and the Project Completion and Request for Payment Form and Final Report have been submitted.

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

All recipients of federal funding, including public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools must comply with 2 CFR 200, subparts A, B, C, and F, and a subset of the requirements in subparts D and E, including record retention and audit requirements. You can find additional information about requirements [HERE](#).

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

Recipients of these funds must review and comply with 2 CFR 200.216 regarding the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.

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

According to 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

36. Does our school need to follow procurement requirements found within 2 CFR 200.317-323?

No. According to updated Treasury guidelines as of July 27, 2022, SAFE Grant funds, which fall under Expenditure Category 6.1, Revenue Loss, do not require recipients to follow federal procurement requirements outlined in 2CFR, subpart D.

37. 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.

38. Are standalone preschools allowed to apply for this grant?

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

39. What are the monitoring requirements for this grant?

NHED is required to monitor award recipients in the areas of risk assessment, expenditure, and compliance under 2CFR 200 and federal guidelines. Upon notification of award, recipients may be required to submit risk assessment documents including: Conflict of Interest Policy, Record Retention Policy, most recent Federal single audit report, or if no single audit, most recent year audit or unaudited financial statement, most recent 990, organization chart, and organization's procurement policy and financial controls.

As part of the Grant Agreement, recipients may be required to certify compliance of Nondiscrimination in Federally Assistance Programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and additional certifications of compliance including Drug-Free Workplace, Lobbying, Debarment, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Environmental Tobacco Smoke.

Recipients will submit quarterly reports documenting funds obligated, funds expended, and completion status of projects.

40. What are the reporting requirements for the SAFE Grant?

Schools that receive SAFE Grants will be required to submit quarterly reports providing information on funds obligated, funds expended, and project completion status. NHED will provide instructions for report submission.

41. Where can I find a list of grant requirements including disclosures and assurances that must be completed?

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

42. What is the CFDA number of this grant?

The CFDA (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance) number for SLFRF grants is 21.027. The FAIN (Federal Award Identification Number) number for the SAFE Grant is SLFRP0145

43. How should these funds be recorded for accounting purposes?

For accounting purposes, SAFE Grants funded by NH State Public School Infrastructure Funds will be recorded as OTHER RESTRICTED STATE AID, 19640000. SAFE Grants funded by federal ARPA/SLFRF funds will be recorded as OTHER RESTRICTED FED AID THROUGH STATE, 26610000. Award numbers for state funded grants will begin with an “S” and award numbers for federally funded grants will begin with an “F.”

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

You may not obligate federal funds until the grant is awarded.

45. Are SAFE grant funds subject to the Single Audit Act and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F regarding audit requirements?

Schools that receive SAFE grant funds have been defined as subrecipients by the New Hampshire Governor’s Office of Emergency Relief & Recovery [GOFERR]. As such, the Single Audit Act and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F regarding audit requirements do apply to SAFE funds. These funds should be included in determining whether a school has exceeded \$750,000 in federal awards thus triggering the requirement to complete a single-audit.