# Fiscal Year 2027
# Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

# Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE)

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# Fiscal Year 2027: Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

## §101. Definitions and Acronyms

***Advisory Council***—School and Nonprofit Security Advisory Council

***Alternate Contact***—the person designated by the applicant as a secondary point of contact for communication concerning the organization's LCSSGP grant.

***BESE-Approved School Site***—a public, charter, or non-public school approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with R.S. 17:11.

***CEA***—Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

***FY***—fiscal year

***Fiscal Officer***—the individual designated by the applicant agency who is responsible for all financial aspects of the project(s).

***GMPro (Grants Management Professional)***—the electronic system that is utilized for the application and maintenance of LCSSGP grant funds, including requests for reimbursement by an LCSSGP awardee.

***LCLE***—Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement

***LCSS***—Louisiana Center for Safe Schools

***LCSSGP***—Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

***Physical Security School Assessment***—as defined in R.S. 17:416.2, a site visit conducted by the fusion center and any report based upon such visit that is produced for the purpose of identifying safety or security vulnerabilities at an elementary or secondary school in order to identify ways to enhance the school's safety and security.

***Project Director***—the primary person designated as being responsible for all aspects of a project, from beginning to end.

***Project Period***—the time period designated by LCSS that includes the day a project is allowed to start and the day a project must be completed (generally a 12-month time period).

## §102. Overview/Objective

A. The FY 2027 Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program (LCSSGP) is focused on enhancing the ability of public, non-public, and charter BESE-approved school sites to prevent, protect against, prepare for, and respond to threats of acts of violence or terrorism on school campuses. This grant program is a part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by the Louisiana Legislature to help strengthen Louisiana's schools and surrounding communities.

B. **Funding Priorities.** Because security funds are limited, the state has targeted four key areas under the LCSSGP to maximize impact:

1. **Physical Security**—strengthening facility security.
2. **Threat Defense**—blocking and stopping attackers.
3. **Strategic Planning**—developing clear, actionable security plans.
4. **Training and Readiness**—conducting hands-on drills and emergency exercises.

C. **Key Award Information**. The following outlines key award information:

1. **Available FY27 LCSSGP Funding**—$5,413,076.40
2. **Maximum Award Amount**—$50,000.00
3. **Application Start Date**—September 1, 2026
4. **Deadline for Application Submittal**—September 30, 2026
5. **Project Period**—October 1, 2026 to January 31, 2028

D. **Considerations.** The following factors will be considered when making an award determination:

1. current threats or prior incidents at any facility owned or leased by the organization; and

2. feedback or information on the current local threat environment from local law enforcement agencies, parish offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange Center (LA-SAFE), Federal Bureau of Investigation field offices, and other organizations, entities, or agencies.

**NOTE:** A school or BESE-approved school site's socio-economic status will not be a consideration for approval or disapproval.

## §103. Eligibility Information

A. **Eligible Schools.** Eligible BESE-approved school sites include public elementary or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public school district or political subdivision and meet the following requirements:

1. the organization meets the description of a nonprofit organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the *Internal Revenue Code*;

2. is exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of the *Internal Revenue Code*; and

3. must be an educational facility whose **primary purpose is to instruct children on a daily basis** in grades Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten-12.

## §104. Application Requirements and Guidelines

A. **General Provisions**

1. Eligilble applicants may apply for up to $50,000 per site.
2. Applications must be completed in accordance with this Section.
3. Completed applications must be submitted no later than **September 30, 2026.**
4. School districts may apply on behalf of any school within their district for a maximum of $50,000 per award. The district must identify what site(s) will be utilized for the award.

**NOTE:** If a school is included in a district application, that school is not eligible to submit a separate individual application.

5. Only one award per BESE-approved school site will be considered.

B. **Online Application**

1. A fillable online application for the LCSSGP grant opportunity is available in GMPro at the following address: https://v2.gmpro.lsu.edu.
2. The application must describe in detail the project proposed for funding.
3. The project described in the application must:
   a. be for the location(s) that the school occupies;
   b. address an identified risk, including threat and vulnerability;
   c. demonstrate the ability to provide enhancements consistent with the purpose of the LCSS Grant Program (LCSSGP) and guidance provided by LCSS;
   d. be both feasible and justifiable in reducing the risks for which the project was designed;
   e. be able to be **fully completed** within the 12-month grant project period; and
   f. be consistent with all applicable requirements outlined in this funding notice.

C. **Application Details.** The following outlines the different sections of the application, along with Section requirements.

1. **Section 1: Applicant Information.** The applicant must provide basic information, including application type, facility name, address, and three points of contact (defined in §101. Definitions and Acronyms), including the:
   a. Project Director;
   b. Alternate Contact;
   c. Fiscal Officer; and
   d. Facility Details.
2. **Section 2: Background Information.** The applicant must provide:
   a. a brief description of current safety/security programs;
   b. a short summary of any previous incidents; and
   c. gaps in current safety capabilities.
3. **Section 3: Project Description.** The applicant must provide an overall summary of the project, its benefits to the site, and how the proposed project will directly reduce risk to the population the school site serves. The following information should be included:
   a. risk identification, including threat and vulnerability to the school site;
   b. how the funding will be utilized to enhance security conditions; and
   c. identified gaps or lack of capabilities related to school safety.

4. **Section 4: Milestones.** The applicant must explain how the project will be monitored and measured, providing clear timelines, measurable objectives, and completion criteria.

5. **Section 5: Project Management.** The applicant must provide an overview of the team assigned to accomplish the project/program goals and how the team will work throughout the performance period to make the most of the award.

6. **Section 6: Budget.** The applicant must input a proposed budget and required policies (procurement, records retention, etc.) that explain how the awarded grant funds will be utilized.

7. **Section 7: Impact.** The applicant must summarize how the award will have a positive and measurable impact on the safety and security of the population served.

8. **Attachments**

a. **Required Documentation.** The applicant must upload required documentation including, but not limited to:

i. how the project will benefit the school;

ii. a current NIMS-Compliant All Hazards/Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), including a description of the updating process;

iii. documentation showing the system in place for anonymous reporting;

iv. detailed floor plans for the entire school or facility; and

v. any grant-related contract that may support the importance of the application.

b. **Optional Documentation.** Upload optional documentation including, but not limited to:

i. a current physical security school assessment performed within the last 36 months;

ii. previous incidents and threats;

iii. security personnel (School Resource Officers or other qualified security personnel in accordance with this NOFO) on-site during school or business hours;

iv. acts of violence/active shooter training(s) and/or exercise(s) activity within the last 12 months, including school staff and local first responder agencies;

v. prior school hardening projects; and/or

vi. documentation showing utilization of emergency notification platforms (RAVE, Raptor, Navigate 360, or another supported platform). This includes a use of the system to support drills and exercises.

## §105. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

A. **Allowable Costs**. Allowable costs include, but are not limited to:

1. **Planning**. Planning costs include, but are not limited to:

a. NIMS-compliant All Hazards/Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), including updates; and

b. detailed updated response maps and floorplans.

2. **Equipment**

a. Equipment should be focused on facility hardening and physical security enhancements. Funding can be used to acquire and install security equipment on real property (including buildings and improvements) owned or leased by the school or BESE-approved school site, specifically in the prevention of and/or protection against the risk of a school violent critical incident or other on-campus threats.

b. Equipment is categorized as either *Priority 1* or *Priority 2*. *Priority 1* equipment is strongly encouraged to have in place before requesting *Priority 2* items, however, all requests will be considered and evaluated.

i. **Priority 1**

(a). Security fencing and gates
(b). Security doors
(c). Door and classroom security locks/hardware
(d). Secure vestibules to control visitor access
(e). Wayfinding and informational signage
(f). Access control systems
(g). Exterior/site lighting
(h). Security cameras (with plan for monitoring and maintenance)
(i). Security film, ballistic glass, or glass replacement
(j). Traffic control devices such as speed bumps or speed humps
(k). Bollards or vehicle ramming control measures

ii. **Priority 2**

(a). Intercom systems
(b). Metal detectors/weapons detection systems
(c). Network/WIFI enhancement to improve safety communications
(d). Bleeding control kits
(e). Security mirrors

3. **Maintenance and Sustainment**

a. Maintenance and sustainment costs include maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees.

b. All maintenance and sustainment costs must fall within the grant project period.

4. **Training Costs.** Training costs include staff attending security related training within the United States to train other employees or members (e.g., Train-the-Trainer). Attendance fees for training and related expenses, such as materials, supplies, and/or equipment, are limited to this program.

5. **Exercise Costs.** Exercise costs include contract support for the design, development, conduct, and evaluation of HSEEP-compliant all-hazards exercise activities, which may include tabletop exercises, seminars, workshops, and full-scale exercises.

6. **Construction and Renovation Costs.** Construction and renovation costs are allowable expenses. However, they must be specifically approved by LCSS in writing prior to using any program funds for construction or renovation. Limits on the total grant funding used for construction or renovation may apply.

**NOTE: Any contractor and/or subcontractor that is being used for the project shall be licensed in the State of Louisiana and insured regardless of the cost of the project**.

B. **Unallowable Costs.** Unallowable costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Intrusion Detection System (IDS) “security alarm”
2. Less lethal devices, weapons of any kind, or chemical agents
3. Agency salaries
4. Agency operating costs (such as printing costs, audit costs, etc.)
5. Equipment purchases for contracted security personnel
6. Overtime costs

## §106. Application Review

A. **Programmatic Criteria.** Applications will be reviewed for:

1. completeness;
2. adherence to programmatic guidelines;
3. feasibility; and
4. how well the application (project description and justification) addresses the identified risk(s).

B. **Evaluation Considerations.** The following includes criteria that will be considered during the evaluation of LSSGP applications:

1. alignment between the project activities requested within the physical vulnerabilities identified in the organization’s physical security school assessment;
2. integration of school site preparedness with broader state and local preparedness efforts; and
3. completed physical security school assessment for each site that addresses an identified risk unique to that site, including the assessed threat, vulnerability, and consequence of the risk (required for non-profits, encouraged for schools).

C. **Application Review Process.** As part of the application review, LCSS must:

1. conduct an eligibility review;
2. thoroughly review and score all sections (stated in §104, Application Requirements and Guidelines, of this NOFO) of the application (including assessments) using the LSSGP scoring criteria stored in GMPro; and
3. validate the Region and impact listed in the application.

D. **Priority Considerations**. Applicants may score higher by demonstrating any of the following criteria:

1. current NIMS Complaint All Hazards/Emergency Operations Plans;
2. security personnel on site during school or business hours;
3. utilization of emergency notification systems;
4. system in place for anonymous reporting;
5. documented detailed floor plans for entire campus;
6. documentation of training and/or exercises for active threat/active shooter involving school staff and local first responder agencies; and
7. documented physical security school assessment.

## §107. Agreement to Terms and Conditions of the Award

A. By applying, the applicant agrees to comply with the requirements of this grant opportunity and the terms and conditions of the award, should the agency receive an award. LCSS reserves the right to add special conditions to the grant award.

B. Grant recipients are expected to conform, as applicable, with accepted engineering practices, established codes, standards, modeling techniques, and best practices.

## §108. Reporting

A. Recipients must submit quarterly progress reports (at LCSS's discretion), and closeout reports as a condition of award acceptance. If these reports are delinquent, future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld.

B. To avoid a delay in reimbursement, biannual progress and closeout reports must be completed within 30 days of receipt of the report.

**NOTE:** Any reporting requirements will be at the discretion of LCSS and will be outlined in the Award Letter/Grant Award Agreement.

## §109. Reimbursement

A. The following reimbursement procedures will apply:

1. Award funding will only be distributed for costs or obligations incurred or work performed during the Project Period.
2. Grantees must use the GMPro platform when submitting reimbursement requests.
3. All reimbursement requests **MUST** contain supporting documentation including, but not limited to:
    a. timesheets (if applicable);
    b. proof of payment to vendors or contractors (canceled checks, bank statements, general ledgers, credit card receipts, etc.);
    c. copies of original **itemized** invoices;
    d. contractual agreements (if applicable); and
    e. proof of completion of work (photos) if applicable.
4. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted no later than 30 days before the end of the grant Project Period.
5. Duplication of benefits or purchases using federal or other fund sources is not allowed.

## §110. De-obligations

A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Section is to ensure fiscal responsibility and compliance in the management of de-obligations under the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program (LCSSGP).

B. **Scope.** This policy applies to all subrecipients who do not expend entirety of award amounts by the end date of the Project Period.

C. **Enforcement and De-obligations.** Failure to reconcile within the required timeframe may result in suspension of future funding, repayment obligations, de-obligation of remaining award, and/or other corrective actions as deemed necessary by LCLE/LCSS.

## §111. Monitoring and Oversight

A. The grantee is responsible for tracking every aspect of their project deliverables. All grant documentation must be retained for at least five years after the final reimbursement request submission.

B. The State of Louisiana, through its authorized representatives (LCLE/LCSS staff or the Louisiana Legislative Auditor), has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits or conduct desk reviews to review project accomplishments, management control systems, project progression, and to provide any required technical assistance. During site visits or desk reviews, LCSS will review the recipient's files related to the award, along with all related purchases made from awarded grant funds.

C. As part of any monitoring and program evaluation of activities, the recipient must permit the State, upon reasonable notice, to review grant-related records and to interview the organization's staff and contractors regarding the program.

D. Grant funding may be revoked for failure to comply with agreed terms and conditions or for unauthorized expenses.