



# Fiscal Year 2026 Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)

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## Fiscal Year 2026: Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

### §101. Definitions and Acronyms

*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 non-public school approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with R.S. 17:11.

*CEA*—Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

*Commission*—the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security

*FY*—fiscal year

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

*GMP*—the electronic system that is utilized for the application and maintenance of LCSSGP grant funds, including requests for reimbursement by an LCSSGP awardee.

*GOHSEP*—the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, designated in R.S. 29:726.6 as the agency authorized and directed to establish a school safety grant program.

*LCSS*—the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools

*LCSSGP*—Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program

*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 (usually a 12-month time period).

*School Safety Site Assessment*—the foundation for all school safety and security planning and operations; a comprehensive risk assessment that identifies the highest-probability threats, their potential consequences, and the school or school district's vulnerabilities to those threats.

### §102. Overview/Objective

A. The FY 2026 Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program (LCSSGP) is focused on enhancing the ability of public, non-public, charter schools, and BESE-approved school sites to prevent, protect against, prepare for, and respond to threats of acts of violence or terrorism on school campuses.

B. This grant program is part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by the Louisiana Legislature to help strengthen Louisiana's schools and surrounding communities.

### §103. Priorities

A. The state has set priorities to help ensure the appropriate allocation of scarce security dollars. The following are priority areas warranting the most concern under the LSSGP:

1. physical security enhancements
2. mitigation of threat actors

3. effective planning
4. training strategies to include drills and exercises

#### **§104. Award Information**

- A. The following outlines key award information:
  1. Available Funding: \$5,000,000
  2. Maximum Award Amount: \$50,000 per school or BESE-approved school site
  3. Application Start Date: May 1, 2025
  4. Deadline for Application Submittal: June 30, 2025
  5. Project Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026
- B. GOHSEP will consider the following factors when making an award determination:
  1. current threats or prior incidents at any facility owned or leased by the organization.
  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.
  3. A school or BESE-approved school site's socio-economic status will not be a consideration for approval or disapproval.

#### **§105. Eligibility Information**

- A. R.S. 29:726.6 authorizes GOHSEP to establish a grant program through which eligible schools and BESE-approved school sites, as described in this Section, can apply for and receive grant funding to defray the cost of security enhancements or measures including, but not limited to:
  1. safety and security planning, equipment, training, and/or exercises
  2. security-related technology
  3. threat awareness and response training
  4. upgrades to existing structures that enhance safety and security
  5. security personnel
- B. Eligible Schools and BESE-Approved School Sites. Eligible organizations include public elementary or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public school district or political subdivision and BESE-approved school sites that 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<sup>th</sup> grade.

## §106. Application Instructions

A. Eligible school and BESE-approved school site applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 per site.

B. Applications must be completed in accordance with this Section.

C. Completed applications must be submitted no later than **June 30, 2025**.

D. School districts may apply on behalf of any school within their district for a maximum of \$50,000 per award.

1. The district must identify what site(s) they plan to utilize the award for.

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

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

F. GMPRO Online Application

1. A fillable online application for the LSSGP grant opportunity is available in GMPRO at the following address: <https://v2.gmpo.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 or nonprofit occupies

b. address an identified risk, including threat and vulnerability, as identified in the school safety site assessment

c. demonstrate the ability to provide enhancements consistent with the purpose of the program 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

f. be consistent with all applicable requirements outlined in this funding notice.

4. Application Information. The following outlines the different sections of the application, along with section requirements.

a. **Section 1—Applicant Information.** Applicants will provide basic information, including application type, facility name, address, and three points of contact (defined in §101 of this NOFO), including:

i. the Project Director

ii. the Fiscal Officer

iii. an Alternate Contact

b. **Section 2—Background Information.** Applicants shall provide:

i. a brief description of current safety/security programs

ii. a short summary of any previous incidents

iii. the purpose the grant is being applied for

c. **Section 3—Project Description.** 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 or site serves. The following information should be included:

i. risk identification, including threat and vulnerability to the school or nonprofit site;

ii. how the funding will be utilized to enhance security conditions

iii. identified gaps or lack of capabilities related to school safety.

d. **Section 4—Milestones.** Explain how the project will be monitored and measured, providing clear timelines, measureable objectives, and completion criteria.

e. **Section 5—Project Management.** 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.

f. **Section 6—Budget.** Input a proposed budget and required policies (procurement, records retention, etc.) that explain how the awarded grant funds will be utilized.

g. **Section 7—Impact.** Summarize how the award will have a positive and measurable impact on the safety and security of the population served.

h. Attachments

i. Upload required documentation including, but not limited to:

(a). a site safety assessment performed within the last 36 months

(b). how the project will benefit the school or BESE-approved school site

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

**NOTE:** Failure to submit a site safety assessment may impact eligibility for LCSS funding opportunities.

(d). utilization of emergency notification platforms (RAVE, Raptor, or other supported platform). This includes the use of the system to support drills and exercises

(e). the system in place for anonymous reporting

(f). detailed floorplans for the entire school or facility

(g). the signed CEA and award letter

(h). any grant-related contracts

ii. Upload optional documentation including, but not limited to:

(a). previous incidents and threats

(b). security personnel (School Resource Officers or other security personnel) on-site during school or business hours

(c). 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

(d). prior school hardening projects

## §107. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

### A. **Unallowable** costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Intrusion Detection System (IDS) “security alarm”
2. conducted energy devices (including Tasers)
3. pepper spray
4. agency salaries
5. agency operating costs (such as printing costs, audit costs, etc.)
6. equipment purchases for contracted security personnel
7. overtime costs

### B. **Allowable** costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Planning Costs. Planning costs include, but are not limited to:
  - a. NIMS Compliant All Hazards Crisis/Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), including updates
  - b. detailed updated floorplans
  - c. detailed response maps
2. Equipment Costs. 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. 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. Examples include, but are not limited to:

#### **Priority 1**

- Security fencing and gates
- Security doors
- Door and classroom security locks/hardware
- Secure vestibules to control visitor access
- Wayfinding and informational signage
- Access control systems
- Door release buzzers
- Visitor Management systems
- Exterior/site lighting
- Security cameras (with a plan for monitoring)
- Security film or ballistic glass
- Speed bumps or speed humps
- Bollards or vehicle ramming control measures

#### **Priority 2**

- Intercom systems
- Metal detectors / weapons screening systems
- Network/WIFI enhancement to improve safety communications
- Bleeding control kits

- Security mirrors

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

### **§108. Application Review**

A. Programmatic Criteria. Applications will be reviewed for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, feasibility, and 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. the role of the school or BESE-approved school site in responding to or recovering from terrorist or other extremist attack
2. alignment between the project activities requested within the physical vulnerabilities identified in the organization's school safety site assessment
3. integration of school or BESE-approved school site preparedness with broader state and local preparedness efforts
4. completed School Safety Site 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 §106.F.4 of this NOFO) of the application (including assessments) using the LSSGP scoring criteria stored in GMPro
3. validate the GOHSEP Region and impact listed in the application
4. submit to the Commission the results of the LCSS staff review as follows:
  - a. details of applications received but not recommended for funding (including incomplete applications and ineligible applicants), as well as justification as to why they are not being recommended for funding
  - b. details of applications that are recommended for funding, along with completed proposed budgets.

D. Priority Considerations. Applicants may earn bonus points for demonstrating any of the following criteria:



1. current NIMS Complaint All Hazards Crisis Plans/Emergency Operations Plans
2. security personnel on site during school or business hours
3. utilization of Rave or other technology for emergency notifications
4. system in place for anonymous reporting
5. documented detailed floorplans for entire campus
6. documentation of trainings and/or exercises for active threat/active shooter involving school staff and local first responder agencies
7. documented School Safety Site Assessment

### **§109. Agreement to Terms and Conditions of the Award**

A. By submitting an application, 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.

### **§110. Reporting**

A. Recipients must submit biannual progress reports (at LCSS's discretion) and closeout reports as a condition of award acceptance.

B. If these reports are delinquent, future awards and funds drawdown may be withheld.

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

D. Quarterly status updates and documentation uploads must be submitted

### **§111. Reimbursement**

A. The following reimbursement procedures will apply:

1. Award funding will only be distributed for costs or obligations incurred or work performed Project Period.

2. Grantees must use the GMPPro 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 invoices
  - d. contractual agreements (if applicable)
  - e. proof of completion of work (photos).
4. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted no later than 30 days before the end of the grant's Project Period.
5. Duplication of benefits or purchases using federal funds is not allowed.

### **§112. Advance Pay**

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

B. Scope. This policy applies to all subrecipients of LCSSGP funds who choose to receive disbursements through an advance payment mechanism.

C. Timeline. Any subrecipient of LCSSGP funds that elects to receive advance pay must reconcile the use of these funds within **90 calendar days** from the date of acceptance of the advance pay.

D. Recordkeeping. Subrecipients must maintain accurate and detailed financial records of all expenditures made using the advanced funds.

E. Enforcement. Failure to reconcile within the required timeframe may result in suspension of future funding, repayment obligations, and/or other corrective actions as deemed necessary by GOHSEP/LCSS.

### **§113. Deobligation**

A. All unspent grant funds must be de-obligated at the end of the grant project period unless a grant date extension has been granted by the LCSS Director.

B. If an agency has funds leftover at the end of the grant project period and does not plan on making additional expenditures utilizing the grant funds, then the agency is required to de-obligate these funds using the grant administration system and the process provided by LCSS.

C. Unless an agency has been approved for a grant date extension by the director of LCSS, all unused grant funds will automatically be de-obligated following the end of the project period.

### **§114. Monitoring and Oversight**

A. The grantee is responsible for tracking every aspect of their project deliverables.

B. All grant documentation must be retained for at least five years after the final reimbursement request submission.

C. The State of Louisiana, through its authorized representatives (GOHSEP/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.

1. 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.

2. 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.