

## MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE) GRANT PROGRAM

# \$25 MILLION

**APPLY BY  
AUGUST 29, 2018**



### GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is a competitive program designed to provide funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based school safety programs. SVPP funding is available for the following purpose areas (a priority ranking system is in place to give highest priority to improvements that enhance building-entry security and improve communication systems):

#### High Priority Projects:

- Building security
- Communication Systems such as radio systems and mobile apps to notify school staff in emergencies.

#### Lower Priority Projects:

- Facility safety equipment such as camera/video surveillance systems

The Department of Education will announce the grant recipients on Sept. 28, and districts can use the money between Oct. 30, 2018 and June 2020. The maximum grant award may not exceed \$500,000 for each qualifying school building. Applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate a comprehensive approach to school safety.

### ALLOWABLE COSTS

Budget requests may be made in the following categories

- **Technology:** including, among other things:
  - **Communications technology:** Two-way radios, alarm notification systems, emergency call boxes, intercoms/PA systems
  - **Video surveillance technology:** Surveillance cameras and/or systems (and accompanying equipment)
    - › Video prediction technology: Data driven software
    - › Social media monitoring: Automated scans of online content
    - › Identification technology (ID scanning devices), tracking systems (smart phone applications), laptops, maps of schools/bus routes (GIS software), printers
- **Equipment:** Entry control equipment, school site alarm and protection systems (including motion detectors), metal detectors and X-ray machines, lighting.

Equipment and technology items must be clearly linked to the enhancement or implementation of the project.



### WHO CAN APPLY

There are 491 Minnesota districts and charter schools eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted and awarded to each qualifying school building on a first come, first serve basis, with at least half of the grants awarded to school districts and other qualifying organizations with administrative offices outside of the 11 county metropolitan area. Minnesota Grant applications received on August 29, 2018 will be considered first.

Other allowable grant costs include predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip school facilities for improvements related to violence prevention and facility security for a qualifying school building. This includes renovating and expanding current buildings and facilities.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications will be accepted beginning August 29, 2018 on a first come first served basis. Applications will be reviewed and continually accepted and reviewed until the maximum amount of funding available is reached.

## MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS OFFERS A PROVEN BASIS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

Industry studies, such as *The Role of Technology in Improving K-12 Student Safety*, conclude that helping educators and first responders reliably connect and communicate is one of the most pressing and universal needs among schools, regardless of size or location. At Motorola Solutions, we offer a wide range of solutions to promote school safety and security, increase operational efficiency and help connect teachers, School Resource Officers, and first responders in extreme emergencies, including:

- **APX™ Mission-Critical Radios** – Operating on the more resilient P25 radio networks preferred by first responders, APX radios provide the uncompromising quality and reliability demanded by public safety professionals. In many school districts, the School Resource Officer carries both DMR and P25 radios to manage communications with first responders and the school radios users simultaneously.
- **Video Surveillance** – A recent Motorola Solutions acquisition, Avigilon, offers advanced video surveillance and analytics solutions. A complete line of intelligent high-definition cameras, comprehensive Access Control and Video Management software solutions, and advanced video analytics harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence help schools use video to their fullest advantage. Access Control solutions designed specifically for schools also assist in controlling who enters campus buildings.
- **Ally Incident Management Software** – Security teams can quickly dispatch, document, manage, and report on incidents with this intuitive, cloud-based software solution. Track incidents to resolution, show trends in student transgressions, and accurately document issues for Clery processes with a system designed for security personnel.
- **TipSubmit** – Community engagement is the essence of a successful crime prevention program. Prevent K-12 campus crimes and solve more cases using TipSubmit. TipSubmit is a tip management service specifically designed for Law Enforcement agencies to anonymously collect tips from citizens.
- **Si500 and CommandCentral Vault** – For school districts interested in video documentation of interactions between students and the security team, the Si500 video speaker microphone and CommandCentral Vault evidence management system provide comprehensive video capabilities and peace of mind.
- **Safety Connect with the APX O2 Control Head** – A solution specifically designed for school safety, the APX O2 Control Head connects to an APX mobile radio affiliated with the local law enforcement radio system. In an extreme emergency, administrators can press the large orange button on the front of the control head, opening a live communication channel with dispatch personnel so they can remotely monitor the incident on an open radio channel.
- **Network Bridges, Bi-directional Amplifiers, and Repeaters** – These infrastructure components boost signal strength inside schools structures where wall thickness and choice of building materials may inhibit radio coverage. By optimizing existing networks, connectivity in all parts of the school is ensured so that critical communications continue. Network Bridging solutions can help interconnect P25 systems on different radio frequencies, or even DMR Tier III and P25 networks, to enable first responders to connect directly with educators in extreme emergencies.
- **WAVE Work Group Communications** – Create simple, secure, and reliable Push-To-Talk communications between radios and devices outside the radio system, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. WAVE allows offsite administrators and supervisors to communicate directly with radio users on site, using their preferred device.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are first required to submit their application through Survey Gizmo. This website will not open until August 29, 2018. Each school site will need to complete its on separate survey application. Applications submitted on August 29 will receive priority. **It is highly recommended to submit early on August 29.**

**The Application Guide may be found here:**

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/DSE/MDE074493>

## The MDE has designated the following application elements as critical:

- Project Narrative which should address:
  - School safety planning efforts
  - Funding request and how integration into existing efforts will fill specific gaps and needs
  - Management and implementation plan
  - Sustainability plan
  - Other information or data metrics showing need for improved security and federal assistance
- Expenditure Plan
  - The Expenditure plan should be created in an Excel document. Applicants must specify their name, the name of the project, and the total projected project cost. This includes how much will come from the grant (\$500,000 maximum) and what other sources of funding will be used if the total projected costs are over the maximum paid by the grant.
- Application Submission and Signature
  - Applications will not be accepted via email, fax, through the SERVS system, saved as Google docs, or hard copies submitted through the U.S. mail or hand delivered.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The following documents developed through the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative may be helpful to you in the development of your narrative application and request for funding:

- Capital Grants Information Manual offers an overview of what is required to receive state capital grant funds. [https://mn.gov/mmb/assets/Capital%20Grants%20Manual%20May%202014%20REVISED\\_updated%20links\\_tcm1059-291111.pdf](https://mn.gov/mmb/assets/Capital%20Grants%20Manual%20May%202014%20REVISED_updated%20links_tcm1059-291111.pdf)
- State of Minnesota Guide to Local Government Capital Assets explains the accounting and financial reporting required. [http://www.osa.state.mn.us/other/GASBTools/capital\\_asset\\_guide.pdf](http://www.osa.state.mn.us/other/GASBTools/capital_asset_guide.pdf)
- The Readiness and Emergency Management (REMS) Technical Assistance Center Provides excellent interactive tools and other resources to help school planning teams and community partners develop and implement emergency operations plans. [www.rems.ed.gov](http://www.rems.ed.gov)
- FEMA Multihazard Emergency Planning for Schools Toolkit Provides a wide variety of resources to assist schools in planning and assessments. <https://training.fema.gov/programs/emischool/el361toolkit/start.htm>
- The Role of Technology in Improving K–12 School Safety (RAND Corporation) Provides a synthesis of expert opinions and a review of the literature regarding school safety technology. [https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1400/RR1488/RAND\\_RR1488.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1400/RR1488/RAND_RR1488.pdf)
- A Comprehensive Report on School Safety Technology (Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory) Provides a comprehensive summary of what is currently known regarding the effectiveness of school safety technologies. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250274.pdf>

## WE CAN HELP YOU

The grant applications can be challenging to navigate. To help you, Motorola Solutions has partnered with the grant experts at [EducationGrantsHelp.com](http://EducationGrantsHelp.com). Their team of funding experts can help your agency identify which areas you are eligible for, answer questions and offer insights on how to write an effective application.

## FAQS:

- Q:** If an application includes both high and lower priority projects, will the application receive lower consideration than applications with only high priority projects?
- A:** No, we consider your high priority projects first.
- Q:** Are grants awarded on a District-basis or per building basis?
- A:** Grants are awarded on a per building basis. We will not accept district wide projects.
- Q:** I'd like to clarify that time of day submitted on 8/29 doesn't guarantee your random number.
- A:** We will assign the random number for all applications received on August 29, 2018, beginning on August 30, 2018, so each application received that day will have the same chance of receiving a low number.
- Q:** Is there any particular number of buildings you might be limited to being awarded?
- A:** No, every application will have the same chance to be awarded if submitted on the same day, based on our selection process outlined in Phase 4 of the Instructions document. It possible to be awarded for all, some, or none of the projects you applied for this grant.
- Q:** Will applicants be notified of the random number they receive and the funding progress/status related to those numbers?
- A:** Yes, if you are not selected for a grant, you will be notified of the number your application was assigned. We will only then notify you if funding becomes available for your grant project.
- Q:** Is there any priority for smaller projects in order to spread the dollars out further?
- A:** No. The size of the project will not factor into our decision.
- Q:** If part of our district is in a metropolitan county, and part of our district is not, how do we determine if our application will be considered a metropolitan applicant?
- A:** It depends on the location of your administrative offices, and not the location of the school site. If your administrative offices are in Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright counties, you will be counted as a metro applicant. Otherwise, your application will be placed with the non-metro applicants. You will indicate the location of your administrative offices in Survey Gizmo.
- Q:** Will half of the money or half of the grants go to non-metro schools?
- A:** At least half of the grants will go to non-metro schools.
- Q:** The instructions have specific questions for the narrative - is there a specific format for how to answer these questions? Will there be a specific character limit?
- A:** In Survey Gizmo, there will be a specific location to answer these questions in a narrative format. There is no character limit.
- Q:** Will file attachments be allowed? If so, what is the size limit (in MBs)?
- A:** Yes, we will require that you upload the signed assurances for each survey application you complete, and the expenditure plan. If you wish to upload further documentation, there is a limit on number and the size of the uploads of. You may upload up to 10 additional documents up to 50 MB each in the following formats: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, doc, xls, docx, xlsx, pdf, txt, mov, mp3, mp4, wav.
- Q:** Is there a way to use a trial version of Survey Gizmo in preparation of using the web site, or provide screen shots of what the site will look like?
- A:** No, we will posting a Word version for you to complete, so on the day of application, you can copy and paste your answers directly into survey gizmo. Please note that we will NOT accept the Word version of your application.
- Q:** Do you have an estimated date for the posting of the MS Word version of the survey?
- A:** We expect that document to go live the within the next week.
- Q:** If we are submitting for multiple buildings, can we copy our application for one building and then just make changes for the second building?
- A:** Each survey gizmo application will require you to input the information each time. However, you may copy and paste your answers to the narrative questions from another source.
- Q:** Are there word count limits to narrative answers in the survey gizmo application?
- A:** No, there is no word count or limit to the narrative portion.
- Q:** When will the Survey Gizmo link go live?
- A:** The link will go live on August 29, 2018 at 7am.
- Q:** Where in Survey Gizmo are the narrative questions answered?
- A:** There will be space along side of the project you are submitting for this grant.