

Unlocking Grant Potential: A Guide for Districts to Access Federal Funding

May 30, 2024

NSDC
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION



Agenda

What will we cover
today?

- Introductions
- Grant Basics
- Review of District Survey
- Preparing Your Districts for Grants
- Overview of NSDC Grants Program

Grant Basics: What kind of grant funding is available and for what?

Opportunities to fund your projects

Purpose of Federal Grants



To secure funding for a specific project or to address a specific problem that *directly assists or benefits the public in such areas as education, health, public safety, public welfare, and public works.*

Types of Grants



- **Discretionary or Competitive Grants**

- Request for funding for a fixed period of time for a specific project. The funds are used to carry out goals and activities to support a public purpose.

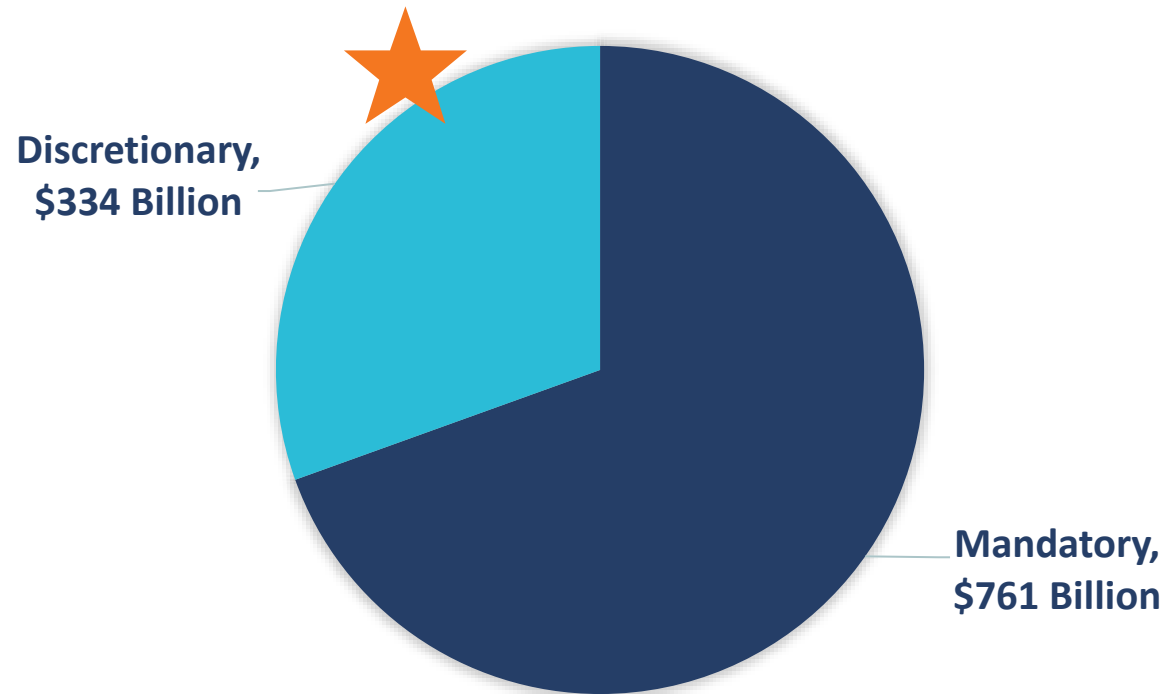
- **Formula, Entitlement, and Block Grants**

- Pre-determined amount of funding provided to eligible recipients to offset the local costs incurred when carrying out a federal requirement. These grants are typically non-competitive but do require applications.
- Often directed to larger units of local government.

\$1.095 Trillion (FY 2025) Available to State and Local Governments

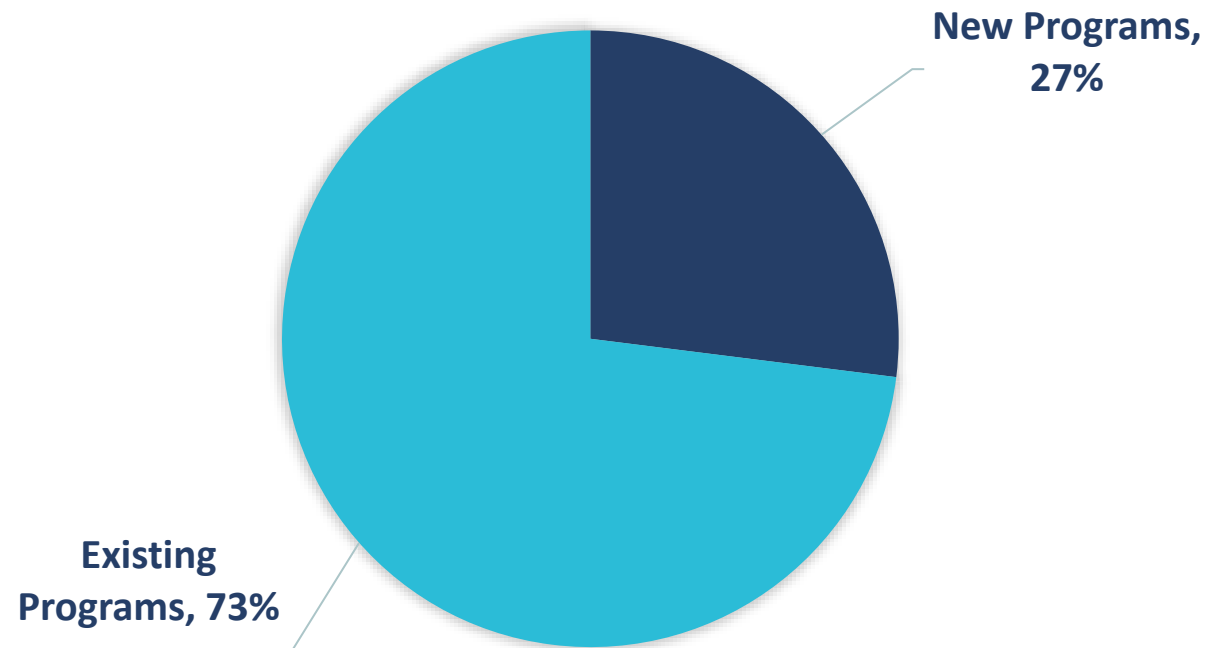
Total Federal Grant Spending

DISCRETIONARY VS. MANDATORY



\$1.2 Trillion in FY 2022 - 2026

OVERALL NEW VS. EXISTING PROGRAM FUNDING



Bipartisan
Infrastructure
Law Funding

Types of Available Grant Funding

- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Habitat Conservation
- Homelessness
- ★ Fire Departments
- ★ Parks and Recreation
 - Broadband
 - Libraries and Museums
- ★ Drinking Water
- ★ Wastewater
 - Transportation
- ★ Economic and Community Development
- ★ Rural Communities
 - Opioid Abuse
 - Clean Energy and Technology
 - Smart Vehicles
 - Cybersecurity
- ★ Utilities

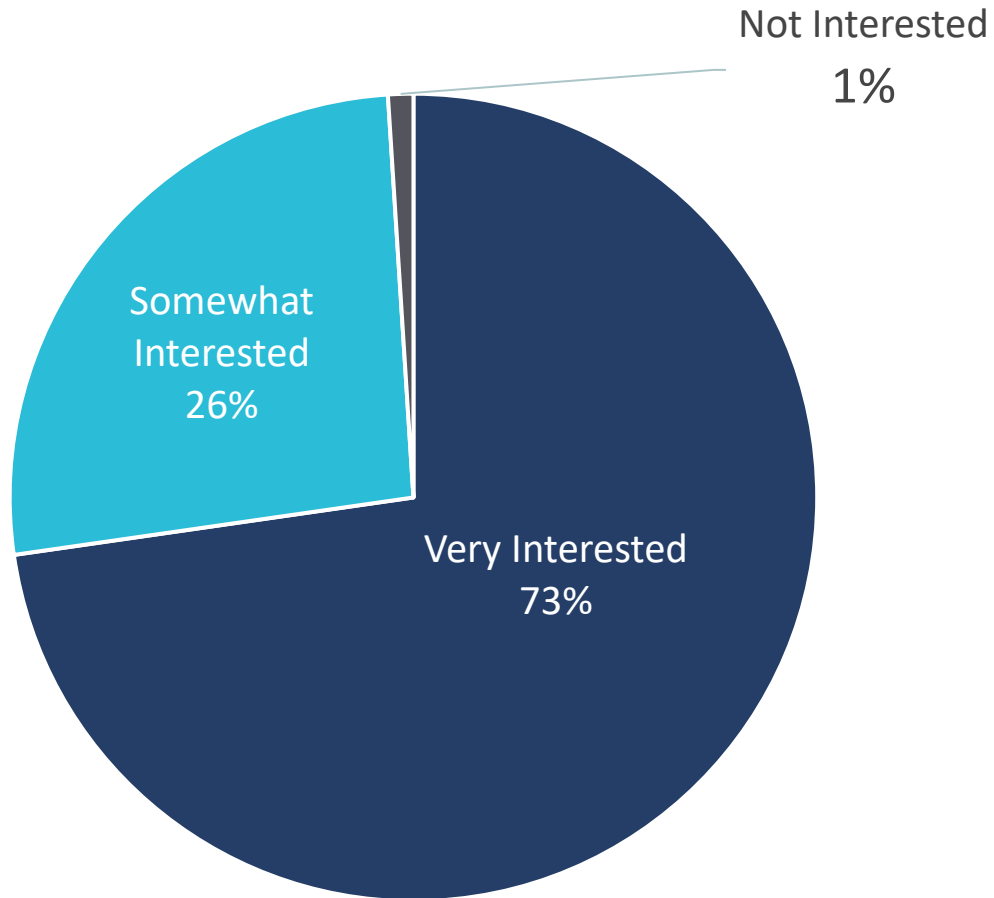
What do grants generally fund?

- General Purpose
- Equipment
- Operating
- Planning Grant
- Research
- Training
- Capacity Building
- Public Outreach and Engagement
- Conferences
- Construction and Renovation
- Demonstration and Pilot Programs

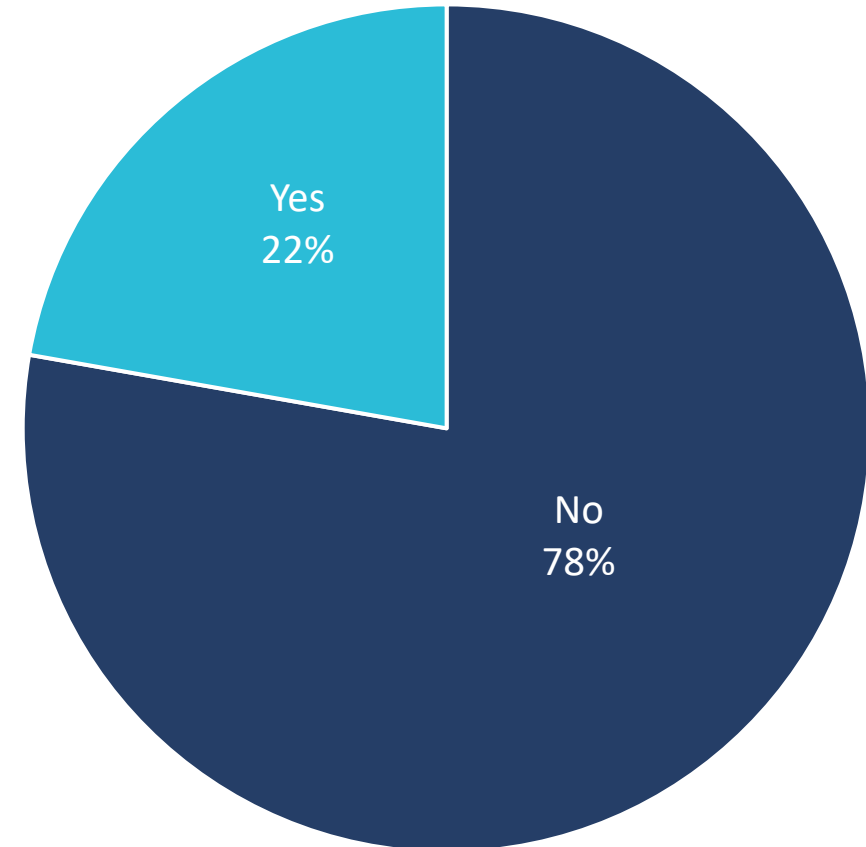
NSDC Grant Survey: What we learned from districts about their grant needs.

Tailoring the NSDC Grants Program to your needs

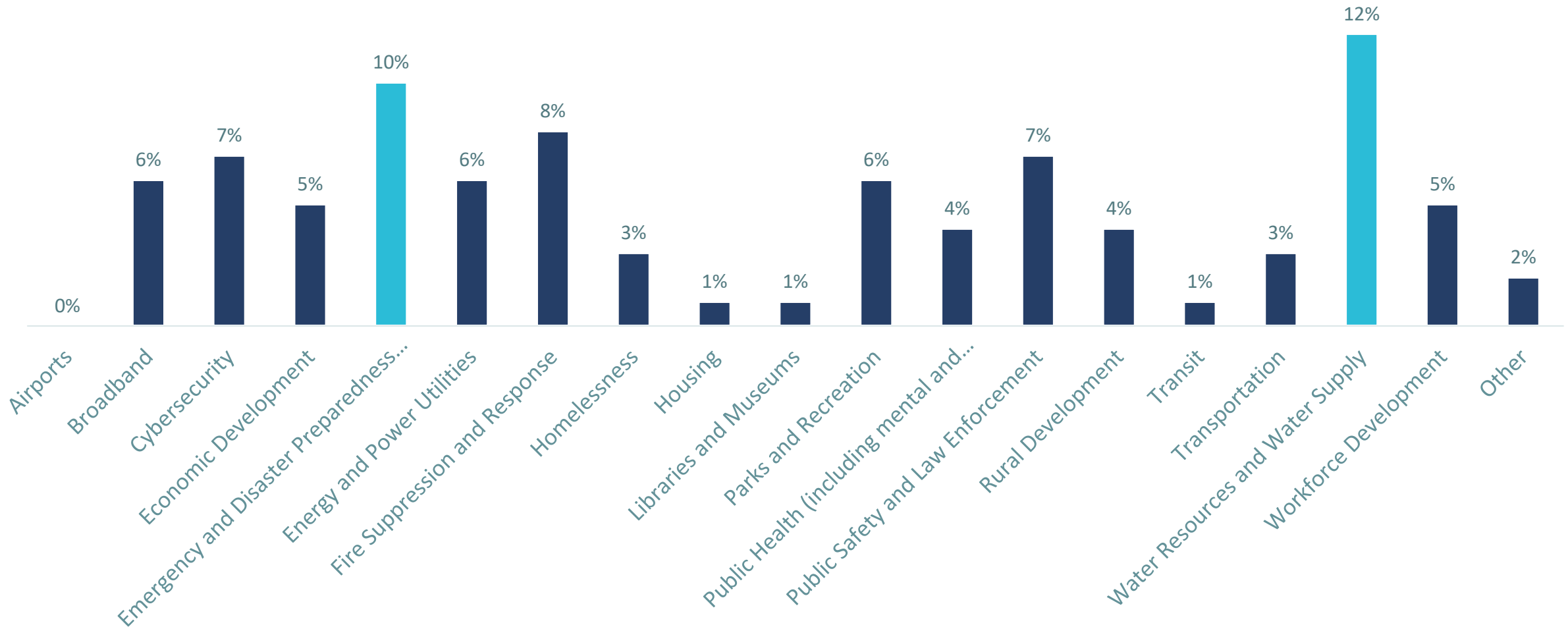
What is your district's general interest level in pursuing federal discretionary grant funding?



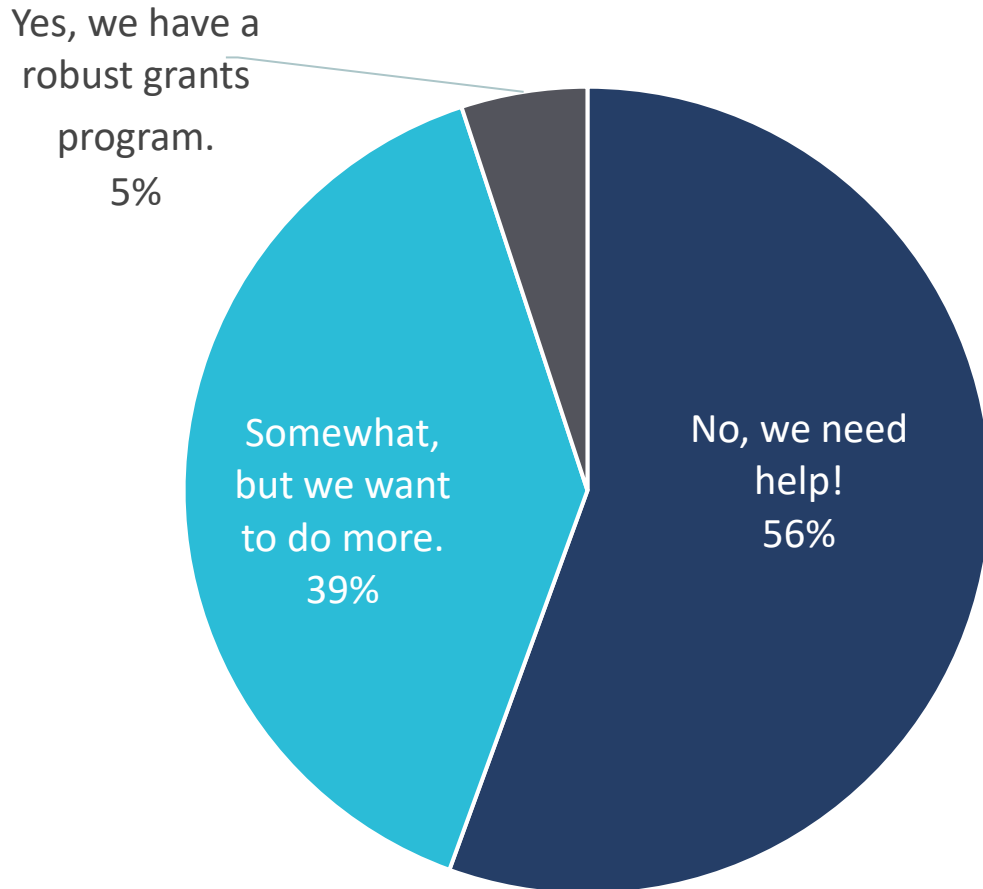
Have you applied for federal discretionary grants?



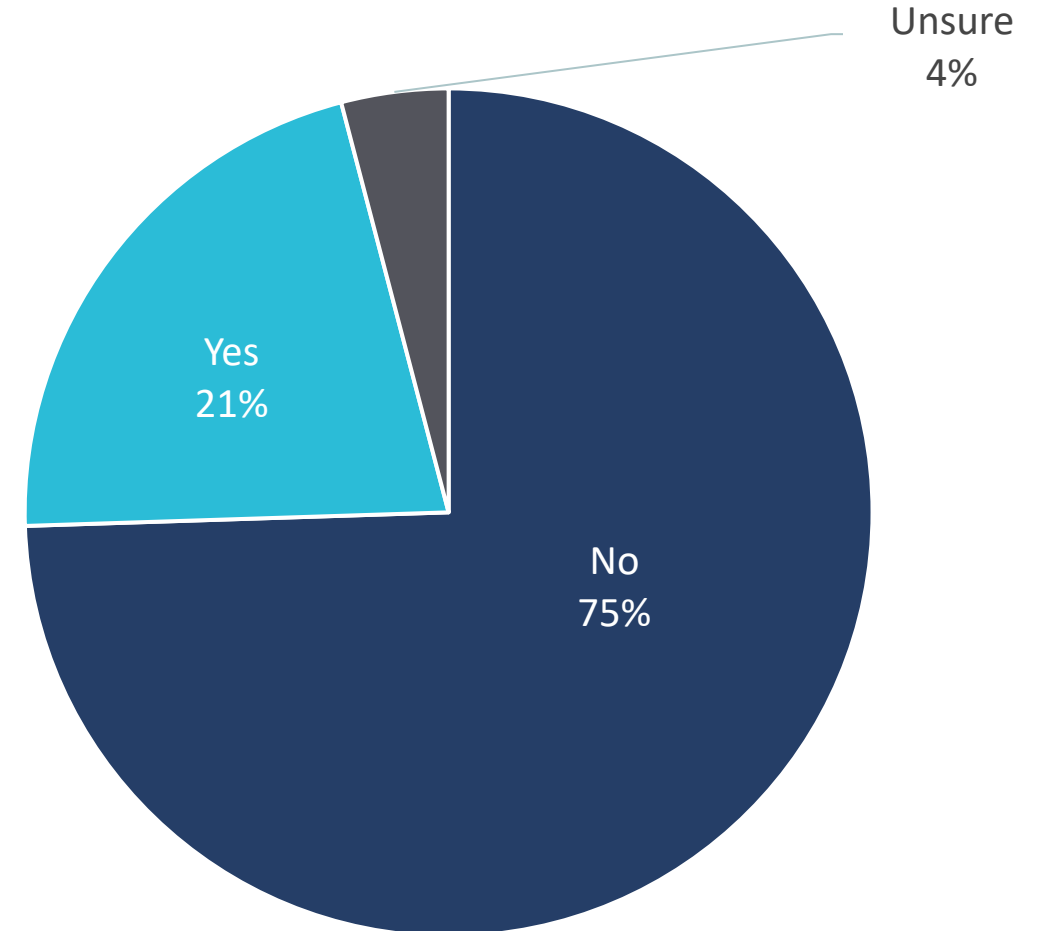
Which issue areas you are interested in pursuing federal funding?



Do you believe your district utilizes federal grant funding to the best of its ability?

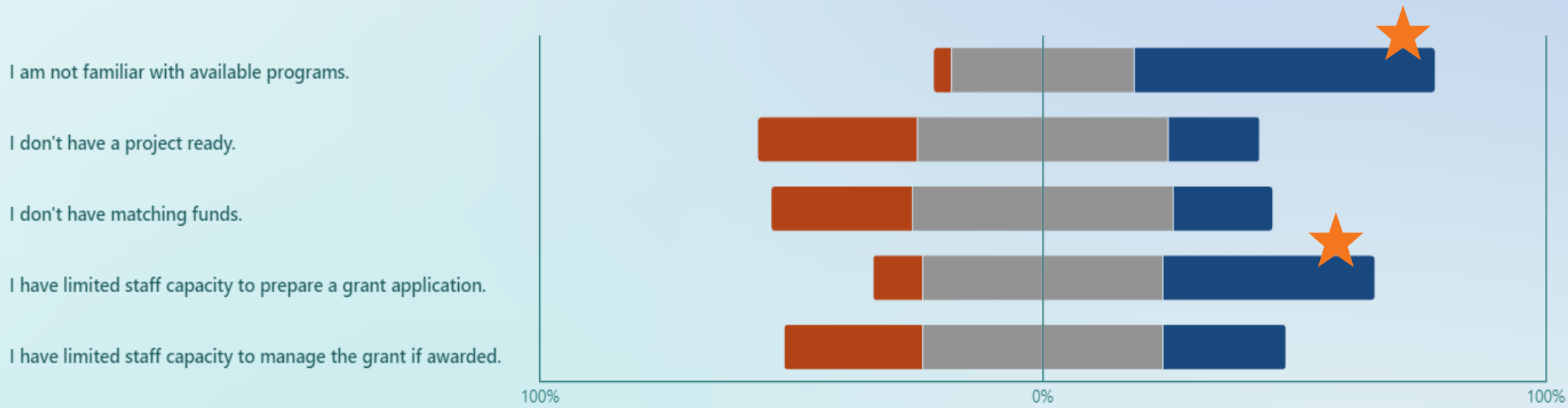


Does your district have staff dedicated to grant preparation and writing?



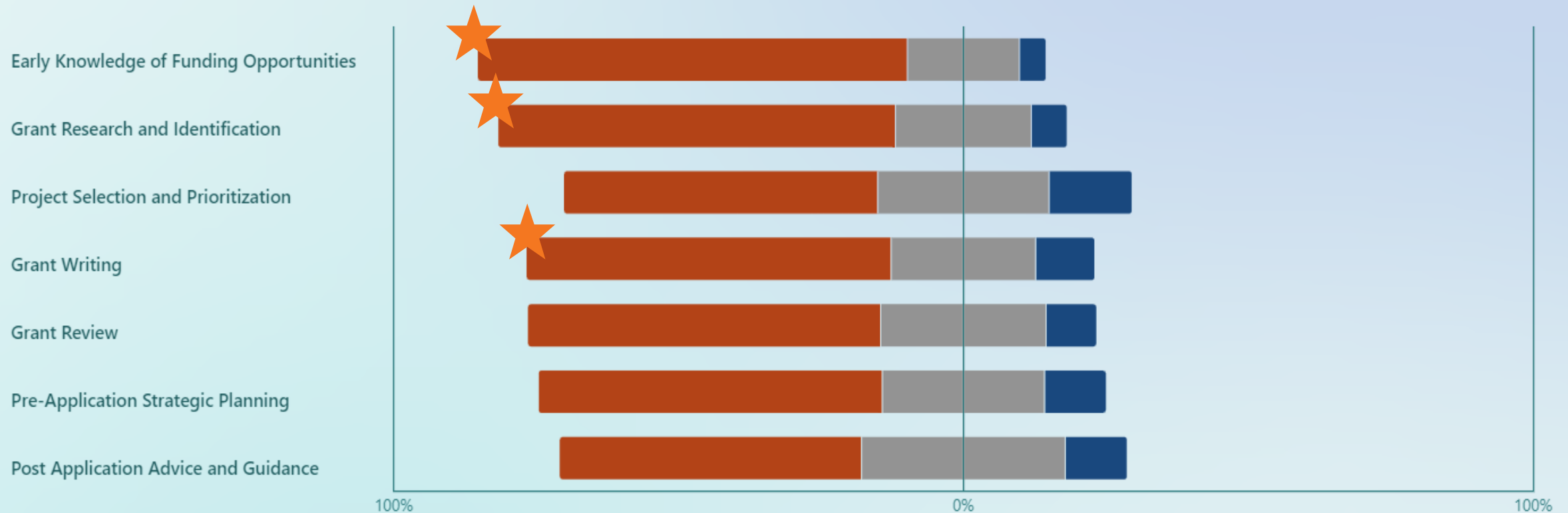
Please rank the items below in terms of which ones present the largest barrier or obstacle to pursuing funding for projects.

■ Not a Barrier
 ■ Somewhat of a Barrier
 ■ Definite Barrier



What grant services do you believe would help your district become more proficient in securing federal funding?

■ Very Interested
 ■ Interested
 ■ Somewhat Interested



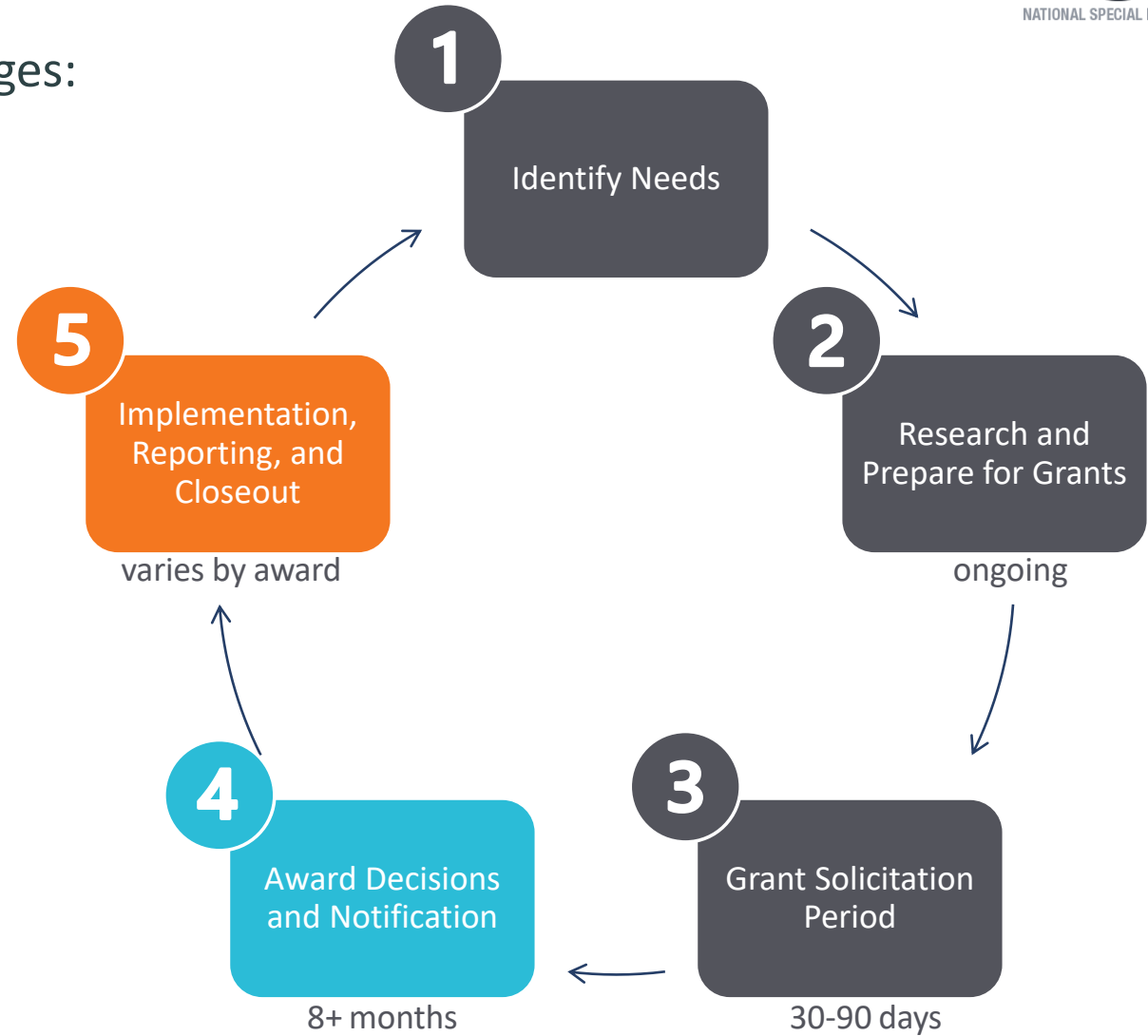
Getting Prepared: What to do now to ensure your district is ready

Tips to make your district the most successful

Full Cycle of a Grant Funded Project

Three basic stages:

- Pre-Award
- Award
- Post-Award



! Process can take anywhere from 12 – 24 months from project idea to Award Notification

Plan Ahead & Identify Needs

- On an annual basis identify 3-5 priority projects
 - Focus on medium- to long-term projects
 - Look through your Capital Improvement Budget and Long-Range Plans for Ideas
- Clearly define each project(s) vision and needs
 - What are you trying to accomplish? Why is it needed?
 - ★ • When is funding needed?
 - What documentation do you have to support the project?
 - ★ • How much will it cost? Do I have a match?
 - Do I have community and stakeholder support?

Grant Funding Search Tools

- **Grants.gov**
 - Federal grants only
- **Federal Register**
 - Federal grants only
- **Government/Funding Agency Websites and Listservs**
 - All grants
- **The Foundation Center**
 - Foundation grants only
- **Guidestar**
 - Foundation funding background only (does not list grants)
- **Google**
 - All grants
- **Paid subscriptions**



*Sign up for email
notifications and
subscriptions...
including from
NSDC.*

Consult with Funding Agency

- Discuss project ahead of solicitation period
- Discuss project after an unsuccessful application
- Allows for time to modify project and address agency feedback ahead of solicitation period
- Creates a relationship with the funding agency



Ask if the agency has any priorities or directives for projects funded through the program.

Develop Strategic Partnerships

- Broad community support from invested stakeholders and partners will boost your applications appeal.
- Solicit support from partners early in the grant application process or even before the grant solicitation is released.
- Have partners commit the project through their own letter of support or MOU.
- Involve project partners in other advocacy efforts.



*Reach out to your County
and City partners!*

Secure Support

- Contact the congressional members and state officials offices representing the district ***where the project will take place.***
- Inform staffers of your project and request letters of support.



Create an easy letter template describing your project.

Post Award Considerations

Post-Award requirements vary considerably from program to program. However, there are several general post award considerations that NSDC members should prepare for:

- Procurement Methods and Requirements
- Reporting Requirements
- Adhering to Federal Regulations
- Program Administration

! The most important thing is to do is communicate with and listen to what the funding agency requires you to do after they have issued you an award!

NSDC Grants Program: Learn what services are available to help

[Grant Services for NSDC Members](#)

Grant Services Available to NSDC Members

- Weekly federal grant updates for special districts
- Grant alerts for high-priority programs before release
- Access hundreds of successful grant applications
- Grants training
- Overview of grant funding options on select topics
- NSDC member discount for full grant services:
 - Needs assessments
 - Grant writing, editing, and review
 - Grant advocacy
 - Specialized grants training


NSDC Website

Home About Us ▾ Advocacy & Grants ▾ Topics ▾ Membership ▾ Coalition News Districts Make the Difference Contact Us

ADVOCACY & GRANTS

- NSDC PLATFORM
- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
- PRIORITY INITIATIVES
- GRANT SERVICES
- EVENT CALENDAR

Grant Services

 **The Ferguson Group**

The National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) is partnering with The Ferguson Group (TFG) to provide grant services to NSDC members. TFG has decades of experience working with local governments, public agencies, and special districts to find funding for priority projects. TFG is offering NSDC members a wide range of grant services at no cost, including:

Grant Training Services

- Advance grant announcements and notices
- Weekly review of grants impacting local communities
- General Grant Guides for a variety of policy topics.
- Access to a database of more than 700 successful grant applications

NSDC's special district members can access these resources by completing the **Project Idea Portal** highlighted on this page.

NSDC members interested in additional grant services aside from the above list may take advantage of member discount pricing on the full scope of TFG grant services.

Visit [The Ferguson Group's Grant Services webpage](#) for more information.

Dive Deeper into NSDC/TFG Grants Services for Special Districts

Organizations affiliated with NSDC have the opportunity to pass along the Coalition's grant services benefits to their special district members..

[READ MORE »](#)

SEARCHING FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES?

In partnership with The Ferguson Group, NSDC has established a "project idea portal" for districts to submit projects for which federal funding..

[SIGN IN TO ACCESS PORTAL »](#)





Book a consultation!

Grant Project Idea Portal

NSDC
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

NSDC Grant Project Idea Portal

This form is to collect information on priority projects for National Special District Coalition members seeking funding assistance. Please complete the information requested. TFG Grants staff will then evaluate potential funding sources for the project and set up a meeting to discuss options and opportunities.

* Required

Contact Information

1. Name of Your District *

Enter your answer

2. Which NSDC Member Association is your district affiliated with? *

- Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts
- Association of Water Board Directors - Texas
- California Special Districts Association
- Florida Association Special Districts
- South Carolina Association of Special Districts



NSDC Grants Team will respond within 48 hours to all requests submitted via the portal.

NSDC Bookings

SELECT A SERVICE

Consultations

Meet with Mia Barthel and Kristi More to di... Read more

30 minutes

Consultations

Meet with Mia Barthel, Heidi Schott, and Ch... Read more

30 minutes

Booking for **Consultations**

STAFF GROUP

Christopher Wagoner, Heidi Schott, Mia Barthel

June 12

DATE

< > June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

TIME

11:30 AM

12:00 PM

12:30 PM

NSDC Federal Grant Guides

Provide general overview of federal grant programs for certain types of services

- Water and Wastewater
- Transportation
- Parks & Recreation
- Fire Departments
- Libraries & Museums
- Rural Communities
- Opioid Abuse
- Economic & Community Development
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Habitat Conservation
- Homelessness

Grant Funding Guide



Subject Specific Grant Guide

Grants to Support Water and Wastewater Projects

This guide identifies funding opportunities released in Fiscal Year 2023 which support water and wastewater projects. These opportunities prioritize evidence-based, cost-effective programs for pressing water supply and water infrastructure issues.

January 2024

Prepared by
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[TheFergusonGroup.com](https://www.TheFergusonGroup.com)

Grant Profile and Summary

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Justice
Agency: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

FY 2023 Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence Program

Grant Overview

The Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence Program supports targeted efforts to address youth violence through implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts in a school-based setting (K–12th grade only). The goals of the program are to (1) reduce the incidence of school violence through improved school safety and climate and (2) prevent youth violence, delinquency, and victimization in the targeted community. Eligible applicants are city, township, and county governments; for-profit organizations, other than small businesses; federally recognized Native American tribal governments and Native American tribal governments; 501(c)(3) and non-501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; public, state, private, and tribal institutions of higher education; special districts governments; and state governments.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$24,500,000	22

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$22,000,000
Award Range: Up to \$1,000,000
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: March 15, 2023
Application due: Grants.gov May 3, 2023; JustGrants May 17, 2023

<https://ojido.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojido-2023->



Awardee Profile

Archway Charter School of Chester, PA

AMOUNT: \$1,000,000
YEAR: 2022

Archway Charter School of Chester, PA received funding to expand and enhance peer-support and school-based mental health services that address two objectives: (1) To provide peer support activities that engage alienated youth through restorative practices. (2) To provide school-based mental health services to help students overcome stressors & the trauma of poverty and exposure to violence.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$22 million

Award Range: Varies by program

Match: 25 percent

Solicitation date: March 10, 2023

Proposal due: May 1, 2023

Funding will be made under three categories:

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen a multidisciplinary approach to better respond to human trafficking. Eligible entities are city or township governments, county governments, federally recognized Native American tribal governments and organizations, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, other than institutions of higher education, and state governments.

Program History

	Award Amount	# of Awards
2021	\$21 million	28

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE

Department: U.S. Department of Justice
Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance (B.J.A.)

FY 2023 Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking

Grant Overview
The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen a multidisciplinary approach to better respond to human trafficking. Eligible entities are city or township governments, county governments, federally recognized Native American tribal governments and organizations, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, other than institutions of higher education, and state governments.

Program History

	Award Amount	# of Awards
2021	\$21 million	28

Key Information and Tips
Total Funding: \$22 million
Award Range: Varies by program
Match: 25 percent
Solicitation date: March 10, 2023
Proposal due: May 1, 2023

- Funding will be made under three categories:
 - Development of new local or tribal human trafficking task forces, expansion of local or tribal human trafficking task forces, and enhanced support for statewide task forces

<https://www.grants.gov/search/grants/?cid=346744>

Awardee Profile
Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force
Amount: \$750,000
Year: 2022

The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force will build capacity for law enforcement, victim services, medical, legal, education, and other sectors to address trafficking, including through local and regional efforts as well as nationwide impact and mentorship.

Awardee Profile

Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force

Amount: \$750,000

Year: 2022

The Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force will build capacity for law enforcement, victim services, medical, legal, education, and other sectors to address trafficking, including through local and regional efforts as well as nationwide impact and mentorship.

How to Access NSDC Grant Services

1

Submit your funding needs to the NSDC Project Idea Portal

- Easy to use online tool to provide information on specific project needs or general funding inquiries

2

Book time during NSDC Grant Office Hours

- TFG reviews and connects with your district through a personal consultation

3

Sign up for the second NSDC Grants Webinar

- Follow the Money: Where grant funding went, where it's going, and how to bring it home.
- October 3, 2024 from 11:00am – 12:00pm PT



www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/grant-services

Thank you!



Kristi More
TFG Managing Partner

Chris Wagoner
Grants Specialist

Mia Barthel
Grants Analyst



Questions? Email us at nsdcgrants@tfgnet.com.