



# Guide to Funding

**LenelS2's On The Safe Side campaign empowers communities at both local and national levels to enhance the security and safety of their schools.**

Unfortunately, K-12 schools often have limited resources and funding to safeguard their facilities against threats other than fire.

To support K-12 schools, LenelS2 has developed the following guidance to help districts and school administrators navigate applying for grants and government funding to get the security solutions they need to help keep schools safe.

Among these resources, The U.S. Department of Education recommends that schools take a comprehensive approach by implementing programs designed to meet students' physical, social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and improve school safety and climate.

## Navigating Federal Grants

[SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) is a great tool to find what grants are available to help fund your school's security needs.

The database pulls together grants that are available through government-led departments including The U.S. Department of Education, The Department of Homeland Security, The Department of Justice, and The Department of Health and Human Services.

Through the platform, you can easily navigate the available grants based on your needs and criteria, and then access the requirements for application.



## Finding Grants on Local and State Level

Local and state governments continue to pass funding for grants and plans to support schools' security needs. [The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant Program](#) was passed in 2022 to further support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) by providing \$1 billion in federal funding that can be used towards school security systems. The Stronger Connections Grant Program specifies that State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must award subgrants to high-need LEAs through a competitive process. These funds are designated for activities that promote safe and healthy students, preventing and responding to issues like bullying, violence, and hate that impact both individual students and the broader school community.

In addition, The U.S. Department of Education has allocated Stronger Connections funds to SEAs based on the BSCA, and these funds are separate from regular Title IV, Part A formula grants. SEAs must administer and track these funds separately to ensure their proper use for the designated activities.

In turn, this has allowed states to offer more support to local districts. As of 2023, a majority of states have active local funding and grants to support schools' security needs.

With over 1,400 member organizations, the Security Industry Association (SIA) is another key resource to school administrators navigating school security strategies, solutions and funding. SIA publishes its Guide to School Security Funding annually, and can be found on the [SIA website](#).



### Additional resources that can help

In addition to federal and state funding, there are additional resources available to help navigate this process, including the recently launched [Greenlights Grants Initiative](#), a project of the just keep livin Foundation, founded by Camila and Matthew McConaughy. The initiative was developed to connect schools to federal funding to support their school safety needs. As a component of their work, the foundation is providing tailored grant writing support to local education agencies navigating the grant writing process to help them bring federal school safety dollars to their districts.



### Additional grant database resources

- [Sam.gov](#): The official U.S. Government site to find grants, search for assistance listings, and more.
- [Grants.gov](#): Grant opportunities from federal grant-making agencies, along with access to instructions and application insights.
- [Ed.gov](#): The U.S. Department of Education's site for various grants, resources, and application information.
- [JustGrants](#): The Department of Justice's grants management system for the COPS Office, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

To learn more about LenelS2's On The Safe Side program, head to [LenelS2.com/OnTheSafeSide](https://LenelS2.com/OnTheSafeSide).