



School Security Grant Program – Round 2 Frequently Asked Questions

Grant Timeline	
Question	Response
When does the School Security Grant Program Round 2 timeframe begin and end?	The emergency communications grant program opens for applications October 2014 and the application deadline will be determined based on the availability of funds. For additional information please refer to the Grant Guidelines for Round 2 located on the OSFC website, http://osfc.ohio.gov/Programs/SchoolSecurityGrantProgram.aspx

Eligibility	
Question	Response
What schools are eligible for Round 2 grants?	The following types of districts are eligible for Round 2 grants: public schools [city, exempted village, local, community, joint vocational, STEM (operating under ORC 3326.07), developmental disabilities, educational service centers], and chartered nonpublic schools (private, parochial, chartered).
Our district did some security improvements over the summer. Is this work eligible for the grant program?	Yes. Improvements completed after January 1, 2013 are eligible and are subject to the same approval process and reimbursement procedures as indicated in the grant guidelines.
How are districts/grants applications prioritized?	The grant application process is not competitive, but includes prioritization based upon the order of completed applications received.
Does the district have to be currently working with OSFC on an OSFC-funded building project to qualify for the School Security Grants?	No. The School Security Grant Program is open to all eligible districts. The eligibility ranking list that applies to OSFC-funded projects is not applicable to the School Security Grant Program. They are separate and distinct programs.

Security Entrance Grant – Main Entrance Only	
Question	Response
My district has a building that has a main entrance door with remote access. Can our district be reimbursed for a security camera and an intercom to complete the entrance security system at this building?	Yes. A school district may be reimbursed for any combination of items that includes a security door, security camera, intercom and remote access. Upon OSFC grant application approval, the district would be reimbursed up to the \$5,000 threshold.
Our school already has a door security entrance but we would like to use the grant money to help establish a second security entrance. Will our school be reimbursed for this money?	No. The security grant is for main entrance security only.
Our district applied for entrance grants for some of our school buildings, but not all, in Round 1. Are we still eligible to apply for grants for these buildings?	Yes. School districts that did not participate in Round 1, or did not apply for all eligible grant opportunities in Round 1, are eligible to apply during Round 2. Please note that Round 2 security entrance grants are limited to main entrances only.

Are all our district buildings eligible for security entrance grants?	No. Only buildings that area primarily used for PK-12 instruction are eligible.
Our district applied for grants for each of our buildings in Round 1. Are we still eligible to apply in Round 2?	No. Districts that received a grant in Round 1 are not eligible for additional funding for that same purpose during Round 2.

First Responder

Question	Response
What is the definition of first responder?	For the purposes of the School Security Grant, a first responder is defined as an organization (police, EMT, State Highway Patrol, etc.) that is among those responsible for going immediately to the scene of an accident or emergency to provide assistance at this particular school. This does not include a school resource officer.
Will the grant reimburse a district for a school resource officer?	No. The grant will reimburse districts for emergency communication systems that link directly to the first responder(s). Please refer to the grant guidelines.
How will I know what type of emergency response system is used by my district's first responder(s)?	It is the district's responsibility to check with its local first responder(s) to determine if the first responder(s) use the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) or another emergency communication system. Districts may also contact Rick Amweg, Senior Executive Director, Center for P-20 Safety & Security at the Ohio Board of Regents/Ohio Department of Education for assistance.

Emergency Communication Systems

Question	Response
What types of emergency communication systems are available for purchase?	A district may purchase any emergency communication system (MARCS In-School and others) as long as the system you wish to purchase is compatible with the system used by your local first responder(s) in order to be approved for reimbursement (up to \$2,000). One source of vendor information for emergency communication systems with a State Term contract can be found here: http://www.procure.ohio.gov/proc/viewContractsAwards.asp?contractID=7335 .
Where can I find more information on the MARCS In-School Emergency Communication System?	Please refer to the MARCS In-School brochure that is located on the OSFC website: http://osfc.ohio.gov/Programs/SchoolSecurityGrantProgram.aspx , and the MARCS website, http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/InformationTechnology/MARCSservices.aspx .
What can I do in preparation to receive the emergency communications system?	In preparation to receive your emergency communications system, and in order to get the benefit of the emergency communications system, the district should work with their first responder(s) on guidelines and protocol for emergency communications. It is recommended that this preparation be completed prior to the district receiving the unit, as the protocol you develop jointly with first responder(s) will enable the district to activate the new system upon delivery and set-up.
Is there a cost to the district to an emergency communication system?	There may be a monthly usage fee associated with this type of service. Please check with your service provider.

H.B. 487 – School Security Grant Language

Question	Response
Where can I find a copy of the actual language in H.B. 487 that refers to Round 2 of the Grant Program?	The actual bill language that refers to the grant can be found on the OSFC website, http://osfc.ohio.gov/Programs/SchoolSecurityGrantProgram.aspx .

Reimbursement

Question	Response
What is the timeline to receive approved reimbursement funds?	Once OSFC has approved your request for reimbursement of funds for an emergency communication system or entrance security grant, the expected timeline for payment is no later than 30 days with one reimbursement per district. Please submit all building reimbursements at one time.
What documentation do I need to provide for reimbursement?	Through the grant application system, you may upload information that provides evidence that the district completed a security improvement project that is consistent with the grant as originally approved. Examples are: paid invoices and receipts; cancelled checks or vouchers, and additional information such as as-built drawings and photos of the building entrance before and after the improvements may also be uploaded.
How do I set my school up for an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from the State of Ohio?	Please use the following link and submit your information to the Ohio Shared Services: http://media.obm.ohio.gov/oss/documents/EFT+FORM+-+REVISED+01+14+2014.pdf