

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Chancellor of Higher Education

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Campus Safety Grant Program (S.B. 450)

I. Program Description

A. Overview:

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) in coordination with the Chancellor of Higher Education's Campus Safety Grant Program provides funding to state institutions of higher education for eligible security improvements that assist the institutions in improving the overall physical security and safety of their buildings on public campuses throughout Ohio. The program awards grants competitively to eligible state institutions of higher education.

This information is voluntarily submitted to a public office in expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by section 149.433 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Grant criteria and eligible entities were established in S.B. 450 of the 136th G.A.

II. Award Information

A. Available Campus Safety Grant Program Funding: \$7,500,000.00

Each state institution of higher education may apply for the Campus Safety Grant Program to expend on eligible program costs.

The grant awards contemplated by this grant solicitation are subject to the determination by the Director of Public Safety and the Chancellor that sufficient funds have been approved for release by the Controlling Board. ODPS may suspend or terminate this grant solicitation if the Controlling Board fails to release state capital appropriation for any grant award. All decisions on the grant are in the sole discretion of ODPS and the Chancellor, and are not subject to appeal or review.

There is no minimum threshold for requests and effort will be expended to provide some level of funding to all applicants. We expect that funding request amounts will vary based on individual campus characteristics. The overall funding amount available of \$7.5 million would yield an average award of approximately \$208,330 if allocated evenly across all 36 public institutions of higher education; therefore, we expect the majority of requests to be within or below the range of \$50,000 to \$250,000. If an applicant believes circumstances merit additional funding above this range, please present the rationale in the application and make the desired request.

B. **Period of Performance:** **November 2026-June 2028**

Any amendments or extensions of the period of performance require approval by the Ohio Department of Higher Education and will be submitted to the Chancellor before any amendment or extensions take effect.

III. **Eligibility Information**

A. **Eligibility Criteria**

According to 3345.011 of the Revised Code, “State institution of higher education” means an any state university or college as defined in division (A)(1) of section 3345.12 of the Revised Code, community college, state community college, university branch established under Chapter 3355. of the Revised Code, or technical college.

Please Note: Joint applications are REQUIRED. If the state institution of higher education seeking funding is part of a larger main campus, the main campus location should apply for funding and include any requests for satellite or branch campuses. A vulnerability assessment should be conducted and submitted for each building or location requesting funding for security improvements.

All applicants must follow state and federal laws.

IV. **Application and Submission Information**

A. **Key Dates:**

Guidance and Application available to State Institutions of Higher Education:
September 8, 2026

Guidance and application documents will be available for interested applicants at the Ohio School Safety Center website:

<https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ossccollege-and-universities/school-safety-grants-college>

PLEASE NOTE: Guidance and application documents **will not** be mailed to state institutions of higher education. It is the responsibility of the state institutions of higher education to obtain the documents from the Ohio School Safety Center website.

Questions Regarding the Solicitation

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Higher Education staff will be available to answer questions concerning eligibility, program requirements, and application issues. If you have questions regarding this solicitation, please email schoolsafetygrants@dps.ohio.gov. *FAQ* will be developed and posted to the Ohio School Safety Center’s website as a way to provide information based on questions received.

Application Submission Deadline to Ohio School Safety Center: October 8, 2026

Applications are to be sent electronically to the Ohio School Safety Center’s designated email address: schoolsafetygrants@dps.ohio.gov with all required documentation

attached. Applications must be ***received by 5:00 P.M. on October 8, 2026***. No paper or mailed submissions will be accepted. Applications mailed will **NOT** be reviewed. Incomplete applications will not be scored so please read the guidance and application instructions carefully to ensure you are submitting all required documentation.

Submissions are to be emailed to: schoolsafetygrants@dps.ohio.gov

Anticipated Notification of Award Date:

November 2026

V. ODPS Campus Safety Grants Program Application

As part of the application process, each eligible entity must submit the following three documents:

1. Cover Page

2. Campus Safety Grants Program (S.B. 450) -- Application

Each applicant must fully complete and submit a formal application. *Please note, that the program awards grants competitively to eligible state institutions of higher education; therefore, incomplete applications will not be considered.*

3. Campus Safety Grants Program (S.B. 450) -- Vulnerability Assessment

Each applicant must include its vulnerability assessment and describe how the award will be used to address the vulnerabilities identified in the assessment. The vulnerability assessment should be **conducted by experienced security, law enforcement, or military personnel** and a description of how the grant will be used to address the vulnerabilities identified in the assessment. A vulnerability assessment must be submitted for each building for which funding is being requested.

VI. Funding Restrictions

Grants awarded under this initiative may be used for eligible security improvements only. Eligible security improvements is defined as follows:

1. Physical security enhancement, equipment, or inspection and screening equipment included on the Authorized Equipment List (AEL) as published by the United States Department of Homeland Security that is also within the definition of “costs of capital facilities” under section 151.01 of the Revised Code.

Appendix A contains a list of physical security enhancement equipment. Priority will be given to requests to purchase equipment on the list. If applicants choose to request equipment that is not on the priority list, they must demonstrate it appears on the DHS/FEMA Authorized Equipment List. Requests for equipment that are not on the priority list must be pre-approved. These purchases will have to be explained in-depth and the explanation must include why the equipment is necessary for the security of the organization/facility.

Attendance fees and associated costs for training, while allowable, will be given lower priority during the review process.

No Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance is required with this funding initiative.

Maintenance: *Campus Safety Grant funds should not be used for maintenance projects. Maintenance is non-allowable for state capital appropriation and only local operating funds should be used for maintenance or repairs.*

Indirect and Pre-award Costs: *Indirect and pre-award costs are not allowable under this grant program.*

Operational Overtime: *Operational overtime costs are not allowable under this grant program.*

Other Unallowable Costs:

- *Hiring of public safety personnel;*
- *General use expenditures;*
- *Overtime and backfill;*
- *Development of Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Models;*
- *Development of the Investment Justification;*
- *Organizational operating expenses*

VII. Application Review Information

ODPS will assemble a review panel to score the applications based on criteria set forth in this notice of funding opportunity. All decisions made by ODPS and ODHE during this review process are final and not subject to appeal. *Application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing grant awards (to include both state and federal); (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.*

Criteria

Awards under this initiative will be based on the success of the applicant in addressing the following points:

- Identification and substantiation of any prior instances of violence, vandalism, or attacks at the campus.
- Identification of student housing population on campus.
- Provide a description how the grant will be used to integrate organizational preparedness with broader state and local preparedness efforts.
- Submit a vulnerability assessment conducted by experienced security, law enforcement, or military personnel.
- Description of how the grant will be used to address the vulnerabilities identified in the assessment.
- Previous management of capital campus safety funds, including, but not limited to planning, implementation, reporting, and timeliness of expenditures related to the use of awarded funds.

- Experience with managing grant funds and credentials of the individual tasked to manage this grant.
- Providing a timeline or estimation of dates for the purchase of eligible security improvements.
- Provide all documents necessary for the grant.

VIII. Conflict of Interest

To eliminate and reduce the impact of conflicts of interest, recipients must follow their own policies and procedures regarding the elimination of or reduction of conflicts of interest when procuring equipment, entering into contracts, or in the conducting of other program activities. Recipients are also required to follow any applicable state or local statutes or regulations governing conflicts of interest in entering into contracts.

Conflicts of interest may arise where a contract is awarded or purchase made where the benefactor is an employee/officer/agent of the recipient organization, or a member of the immediate family of an employee/officer/agent of the recipient organization, or has a close business or personal relationship with an employee/officer/agent of the recipient organization.

Procurement in connection with this grant should be conducted in a way that is open and allows for competition wherever feasible to do so. Although recipients of this grant are not held to state and federal procurement standards, it would be wise to research both standards and procure in a compliant fashion in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety in the procurement process.

IX. Modifications

Modifications to approved projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis by ODHE. Under no circumstance should a recipient modify their project and incur costs associated with this modification without first receiving approval. Moving forward on a modification without approval could result in the recipient incurring unallowable costs and could jeopardize future funding should it become available.



Campus Safety Grant Program (S.B. 450)

Cover Page

Grant Application and Supporting Documents

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE (10/8/2026)

[Insert Institutions Name]

[Insert Institution Address]

[Insert Point of Contact Name]

[Insert Point of Contact's Email]

[Insert Point of Contact's Phone Number]

Ohio Department of Public Safety | 1970 West Broad Street 43223 Columbus, OH | Call: 614-644-2641 Email: schoolsafetygrants@dps.ohio.gov

www.ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Chancellor of Higher Education

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Campus Safety Grant Program (S.B. 450)

Application

The grant criteria and eligible entities are outlined in S.B. 450, which supports improvements for state institutions of higher education for “the overall physical security and safety of their buildings on public campuses throughout Ohio.”

This information is voluntarily submitted to a public office in expectation of protection from disclosure as provided by section 149.433 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mission Statement:

Each applicant must include its Mission Statement and any mission implementing policies and practices that may elevate the organization’s risk. Recognizing the impact an organization’s ideology, beliefs, or mission may have on their risk of potential threats, ODPS will consider this as a mitigating factor in an area where certain agencies tie in their scored applications; however, no extra points will be awarded based on these criteria.

*If an applicant is applying for funding for more than one building, question 5 must address how the grant will be used to address the vulnerabilities **at each building**.*

- 1- Identify and substantiate any prior instances of violence, vandalism, or attacks at the campus.** (Describe threat(s) or attack(s) on a global, domestic, regional, and/or facility level)
- 2- Provide information for the following questions:**
 - Is there student housing on the campus for which you are requesting funding?
 - How many students reside on campus?
 - Identify how the requested funds will increase safety for students housed on campus (if applicable).
- 3- Describe how the grant will be used to integrate the campus’s organizational preparedness into broader state and local preparedness.** (Examples include but are not limited to reducing community violence, reducing gun violence, partnerships with local first responders, and preparedness for large events on or near campus)

- 4- Submit the Vulnerability Assessment (attached) completed by experienced security, law enforcement, or military personnel.** (Submitting incomplete information will result in the application being disqualified. Be sure to include a vulnerability assessment for each building for which funds are requested.
- 5- Describe how the grant will be used to address the items identified in the vulnerability assessment.**
- 6- Describe any past experience with grant money:** when it was received, how much, how it was used.
- 7- If all previously awarded capital campus safety funds were not spent, please share** how much of the previously awarded funds remained unencumbered as of 6/30/2026 and an explanation as to why they have not been spent.
- 8- Who will manage this project:** provide name, credentials, past project management experience:

- 9- Provide costs on the items requested (based on the Vulnerability Assessment):** Quotes may be used to identify the correct award amount; however, awardees will be required to competitively bid out the project in order to spend the award funds. (Expand table, as needed) Rank items requested in order of importance and group by project on the table below. Item # will be the ranking of importance starting with (1). The item will be the item being requested, the AEL Number is the corresponding equipment being requested from the AEL list, and the cost is the total dollar for the item.

Item #	Item	AEL Number (from Allowable List)	Cost
TOTAL			

- 10- Milestones:** provide start and completion dates for key activities leading to completion of the project: (expand table, as needed)

Describe type of Activity	Start Date	End Date

11- Investment Justification Narrative: Investment Justification Narrative (IJ):

Each applicant will be asked to develop a formal investment justification narrative that addresses each investment proposed for funding. Security enhancements must be for the

locations that the school occupies at the time of the application. The projects described in the IJ must:

- Identify and substantiate any prior instances of violence, vandalism, or attacks at the campus.
- Provide a description of how the grant will be used to integrate organizational preparedness with broader state and local preparedness efforts.
- Submit a vulnerability assessment conducted by experienced security, law enforcement, or military personnel.
- Describe how the grant will be used to address the vulnerabilities identified in the assessment (for each building requesting funding).
- Describe experience with managing grant funds and credentials of the individual tasked to manage this grant.
- Provide a timeline or estimation of dates for the purchase of these eligible security improvements.

12- Application Documents: Include the following documents in your submission: cover page, application, and vulnerability assessment.

13- Signature: The undersigned represents and warrants that he/she/they has the authority to sign on behalf of his/her/their organization. The undersigned represents and warrants that the information provided by his/her/their organization in this application is true and accurate to the best of his/her/their knowledge. If the undersigned discovers that false, incorrect, or inaccurate information was submitted to the Grantor, the undersigned will immediately contact the Grantor to inform the Grantor of the false, incorrect or inaccurate information.

Printed Name

Signature

Title

Date