

**Subject:** Stronger Connections Grant

**From:** Jen Dalrymple <jdalrymple@willcountyllinois.com>

**Date:** 3/6/2024, 10:11 AM

**To:** Jen Dalrymple <jdalrymple@willcountyllinois.com>

Good morning,

I did not want to wait until the weekly newsletter to share this exciting grant information. Please see the information I received from the Area 1 SEL Hub group. The Will County ROE would be honored to partner with you on the Stronger Connections Grant!

Have a fantastic day!

Jen

*Jen Dalrymple, Ed.D.*

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Thanks to Cara Wiley for letting us know that the grant application and other materials for the [Stronger Connections](#) grant became available today. This is a great opportunity for high-needs schools/districts in our area. The Stronger Connections grant aims to improve or establish safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments for students and educators. Please consider sharing this information with qualifying schools in your area. The grant must be written by an LEA, but ROE/ISCs can partner with schools to assist them with the application process or with grant activities if the school chooses.

## OVERVIEW

- Eligible Applicants are High-need Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in which at least 40 percent of the student population qualifies for free and reduced-price lunch. See the [Child Nutrition Data Analytics and Mapping Tools](#) to find out which schools in your area meet this eligibility.
- LEA also must meet at least **one** of the following **three** characteristics:
  - (1) High student-to-mental health professional ratio, an average of greater than one professional per 250 students, including school counselor, school social worker, and school psychologist
  - (2) High rates of chronic absenteeism, exclusionary discipline, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying/harassment, community and school violence, or substance abuse
  - (3) Students recently experienced a natural disaster or traumatic event
- Successful applicants will receive a one-time award, with minimum grant awards of no less than \$100,000 to a maximum of \$4,958,020 contingent upon district population to include a base and per student amount based on the most recent fall enrollment report.
- Applicants that plan to submit a proposal are asked to complete a Letter of Intent form by

**March 18, 2024.**

- Grant applications are due on **April 5, 2024** and successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline
- The purpose of this program is to support LEAs in their efforts to prevent violence and to establish safe, healthy, inclusive, and supportive teaching and learning opportunities and environments that create a positive school culture and climate and prioritize student wellness and academic outcomes through evidence-based activities. The program will support high-need LEAs to develop comprehensive school systems grounded in local evidence-based school safety and climate plans, along with other evidence-based strategies for creating safe, healthy, and supportive schools. The program funds must supplement, not supplant, other federal and state funds.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- [FY25 BSCA Stronger Connections Webinar](#) | \_\_\_\_\_
- Questions for the FAQ list must be submitted to [strongerconnections@isbe.net](mailto:strongerconnections@isbe.net)
- Type FY25 SCG in the subject line of the email
- FY25 BSCA Stronger Connections Grant FAQ - **Coming Soon!**
  - The FAQ will be updated daily.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- [FY25 BSCA Stronger Connections RFP](#) | \_\_\_\_\_ |
- [FY25 BSCA Stronger Connections Attachments](#) | \_\_\_\_\_

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The DuPage ROE collaborative networks are open to all. Sign up [here](#).

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