



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Application

Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Request for Application

2016 – 2017

September 15, 2016

The information set forth below is provided for you to develop your application for the referenced Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program. Successful applicants will be selected based on the evaluation process described herein. This document describes the requirements applicants will be expected to meet and the criteria that will be used to determine status as a successful applicant. It is imperative that you expound in writing on each component of your application. You may complete your application on the attached form and return your application by e-mail reply no later than 11:59 pm on October 15, 2016. Please return your application submission via email to: ra-editsonuspa@pa.gov.

Background

In the past five years, the prevalence and impact of sexual violence on students at postsecondary institutions has drawn significant attention from federal and state policymakers. Despite increased scrutiny, programming and institutional reporting requirements, sexual violence continues to be the most prevalent and underreported crime at postsecondary institutions, affecting an estimated one in five women and one in 20 men during their time on campus. Survivors of sexual assault often struggle with long-term health issues, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse. They are more likely to earn lower grades or drop out of school altogether. Based on estimates from researchers, the lifetime costs in lowered educational attainment and lost productivity for adolescent girls experiencing sexual assault in Pennsylvania is estimated at \$15.1 billion.

In an effort to increase awareness, education and resources to combat sexual assault Governor Wolf launched the "It's On Us PA" campaign on January 29, 2016, inviting education leaders and all Pennsylvanians to be part of the solution to protect students from sexual violence. The campaign's goals are to:

1. **Improve awareness, prevention, reporting, and response systems** regarding sexual violence in schools, colleges and universities to better serve all students.

2. **Remove/reduce barriers** that prevent survivors of sexual violence from reporting and/or accessing vital resources by creating a more consistent, empowering reporting process for student survivors of gender based violence.

3. **Demonstrate significant, proactive, and sustainable leadership** to change campus culture by challenging Pennsylvania’s education leaders – including college and university presidents, superintendents – as well as students, teachers, faculty, staff, families, and communities to pledge to improve their institutions’ climate.

With this announcement, Pennsylvania became the first state to launch an “It’s On Us” campaign, building off the momentum of the national campaign launched in 2014 by President Obama and Vice President Biden. In an effort to continue the campaign’s progress, Governor Tom Wolf successfully advocated for funding in the 2016-17 state budget to support postsecondary institutions’ efforts to: improve or conduct training for students, faculty, and administrators; increase institutional capacity to meet existing federal and state reporting requirements; and reduce or eliminate barriers to reporting for survivors of sexual violence. The purpose of the Governor’s It’s On Us PA Grants is to assist postsecondary institutions by providing funding that are aligned to the It’s On Us PA campaign goals (see above).

Grant Information

PDE’s Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education is pleased to issue this request for applications for eligible postsecondary institutions to fund programs which address campus sexual assault in the following areas:

1. Improve institutional awareness and training.

Develop, improve or implement awareness and prevention education curricula or campus-wide training for students, faculty, and staff, including, but not limited to, institutional awareness campaigns to improve understanding of the reporting process and available on-and off-campus resources for survivors of sexual assault.

2. Increase mechanisms and capacity for reporting.

Develop, improve or increase mechanisms for anonymous reporting, and/or improve institutional capacity to collect data to meet federal and state reporting requirements.

3. Improve institutional response to sexual violence.

Develop or improve structures to make students aware of available resources, students’ rights and/or institutional response and protocols for supporting students who have experienced sexual violence.

The application submission window is from September 15, 2016, to October 15, 2016, at 11:59 PM.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this grant, “postsecondary institution” shall include independent institutions of higher education, public institutions of higher education and state-related institutions as defined in section 2001-C of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, 24 P.S. §20-1001-C.

Only one proposal will be accepted from each postsecondary institution and no guarantee of funding is made to any applicant. Applicants may not join together to apply as a consortium. The goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program are to:

1. Improve awareness, prevention, reporting, and response systems in postsecondary institutions to better serve all students.
2. Remove/reduce barriers that prevent survivors from reporting and/or accessing vital resources by creating a more consistent, empowering reporting process for student survivors of gender based violence.
3. Demonstrate significant, proactive, and sustainable leadership to change campus culture by challenging Pennsylvania's education leaders to improve their institutions' climate. In order to accomplish these goals, postsecondary institutions must assess their risk factors and needs, and will be required to provide statistical data to support their proposal. This data could include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Links/copies of relevant institution policies and programs;
 - Name, title, and contact information of the institution Title IX coordinator(s) and other staff responsible for coordinating response to allegations of sexual violence; and
 - Other institutional data (enrollment, demographics, etc.).

Funding

The Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program offers postsecondary institutions the opportunity to apply for competitive funding in an amount up to \$30,000. Funds may be expended only on eligible programs, activities and purposes identified in the proposal and approved by PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education.

Funding requests can include a combination of any of the eligible programs described in this request for application.

Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to proposals that focus on addressing the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program, institutions that have taken the It's On Us PA pledge, and institutions that are in compliance with reporting requirements in section 2001-G of the Public School Code of 2010, "Sexual Violence Education at Institutions of Higher Education."

Eligible Programs

The following programs or activities will be considered for funding:

1. Programming which enhances the creation and adoption of curricula, comprehensive prevention strategies, and/or campus-wide training for students, faculty and staff, including evidence-based awareness and/or prevention programs that address healthy relationship skills,

programs that promote healthy relationships, and/or programs that reduce social norms/attitudes that facilitate sexual violence.

2. Institutional campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the reporting process and resources available to and rights of survivors of sexual violence. Campaigns which seek to create, adopt, or enhance curricula, to provide programming or increase awareness of sexual assault.

3. Programs which seek to develop or improve structures and the delivery modes used to enhance awareness of available resources, students' rights, and/or institutional response protocols for supporting students.

4. Programs which seek to develop, improve, or increase mechanisms for anonymous reporting by survivors of sexual violence.

5. Efforts to improve institutional capacity to collect data to meet federal and state reporting requirements.

Unallowable Expenses

Due to the limited amount of funding available for this grant, only items that are directly related to eligible programs and activities covered in this request for application will be funded under this application. The grant will not fund direct salaries, fringe benefits, travel or operational rates. The following are items that are not eligible for funding (this is not an inclusive list and budgets will be reviewed for allowable items):

1. Awards, incentives, prizes, lotteries or transportation costs associated with incentive programs (i.e. stress balls, t-shirts or parties).
2. Building improvements or construction costs;
3. Maintenance costs for existing equipment;
4. Computers, laptops, printers, televisions or related equipment;
5. Meals, snacks or refreshments including paper products or supplies to support dinners, lunches or parties;
6. Service fees for cable television, cellular phones, internet access, website fees, etc.;
7. Out-of-state conferences or travel costs for other training;
8. Professional membership fees;
9. Rent or utility fees for contracted services;
10. One-day assembly programs that are not associated with research-based prevention programs; and
11. In-house transportation costs.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a team chosen by PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education. Applications will be reviewed for:

1. Goals and objectives of grant proposal and alignment to the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA Program;
2. Program and activity narrative for which funding will be used including details of how the proposed program/activity will improve awareness, training, reduce or eliminate barriers for reporting or improve data collection and reporting capacity;
3. Supporting institutions' efforts to better understand strengths and barriers within their existing prevention, reporting, and response systems through the development, use, and/or analysis of campus climate surveys or other data including current data reported for Clery Act compliance;
4. Detailed budget information that supports the goals and objectives of the proposal;
5. Expected outcomes; and
6. Accuracy of the information submitted.

Applications that do not include all of the required information as stated on the application will not be considered for funding. Applications that include more than 25% of unallowable expenses will not be reviewed or scored. All qualifying applications will be reviewed and scored.

Scoring

Applications will be reviewed and scored as follows:

1. Goals and objectives – 10 points – the goals and objectives of the program are clearly stated;
2. Proposal narrative – 30 points – the proposal includes a detailed description of the program(s) to be implemented and activities to be conducted to support the implementation of the program(s);
3. Supporting needs assessment data used – 20 points
4. Budget information – 25 points – budget information is accurate and itemized using a per-unit cost and total expenditure. A total of all expenditures summarized into three categories: Contracted Services, Supplies and Other;
5. Expected outcomes – 15 points – outcomes are stated in measurable terms including baseline information and expected improvement; and
6. Program Assessment – 5 points – clear plan for assessing the impact of the program being funded through the grant.

Award and Disbursement

Grant awards are projected to be announced in October 2016. Grantees will subsequently be required to sign a grant agreement with PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education. All grant funds must be committed and services performed by June 1, 2017. There is no carryover of funds associated with this grant.

PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education shall seek repayment of funds if it determines that funds were not utilized for the original stated and approved purpose.

Program Reporting and Evaluation

Upon completion of the grant, grantees will be required to submit a report on forms supplied by PDE's Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education.

This information must be received no later than June 1, 2017.

Fiscal Information

In addition to the report submitted to PDE's Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education upon completion of the fiscal year in which grant funds were expended, grantees will be required to submit an invoice to PDE's comptroller no later than June 1, 2017.

Program Changes

All requests for changes to the approved grants and budget must be submitted to PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education in writing no later than April 1, 2017 and approved by PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education or grant will be rescinded.

Assistance

PDE's Office for Postsecondary and Higher Education will answer questions and provide technical assistance via email related to the grant application. Please contact ra-editsonuspa@pa.gov.