



Request for Application

Governor's 2020-21 It's On Us PA Grant Program Pennsylvania Department of Education Request for Application

The information below is provided to assist eligible institutions in developing an application for the 2020-21 Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program. Successful applicants will be selected based on the following evaluation process. 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. You may complete your application on the attached form and return your application by e-mail no later than 11:59 PM on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Please return your application submission via email to: ra-editsonuspa@pa.gov.

Background

Research suggests that sexual violence impacts a significant number of students in K-12 and higher education. Nearly 20 percent of adolescent girls between the ages of 14 and 17 experience attempted or completed sexual assault;¹ on college campuses, an estimated one in four women and one in 20 men will experience sexual violence. LGBTQ+ students are more likely than their peers to experience sexual harassment and violence, and are also less likely to come forward and report to authorities.² In the overwhelming majority of cases – 90 percent – this violence is committed by someone the victim knows and trusts, such as a friend, classmate, roommate, partner, or other acquaintance.³ While many survivors share their experiences with a trusted friend or peer, very few report incidents of rape or sexual assault to officials, such as law

¹ David Finkelhor et al., *Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, October 2009.

² Adrienne Green and Alia Wong, "LGBT Students and Campus Sexual Assault," *The Atlantic*, September 22, 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/09/campus-sexual-assault-lgbt-students/406684/>.

³ Bonnie S. Fisher et al., *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, 2000, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf>.

enforcement, campus police or public safety, school officials or faculty, or a crisis center or health care center.

The It's On Us PA campaign began from a core belief that sexual violence shouldn't be part of any student's education. Launched by Governor Wolf in 2016 with the support of education leaders, including school superintendents and college presidents, It's On Us PA is a statewide campaign that invites education leaders and all Pennsylvanians to be part of the solution to protect students from sexual violence. The campaign has three major goals:

- 1. Improve awareness, prevention, reporting, and response systems** regarding sexual violence in schools, colleges, and universities to better serve all students.
- 2. Remove or 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 institutional culture by challenging Pennsylvania's education leaders – including college and university presidents – as well as students, faculty, staff, families, and communities to pledge to improve their institutions' climate.

As part of the It's On Us PA campaign, Governor Tom Wolf successfully advocated for continued funding in the 2020-21 state budget to support postsecondary institutions' efforts to meet these goals, including initiatives that:

- Improve campuses' awareness and prevention efforts;
- Enhance collaboration between on- and off-campus partners to improve coordination and quality of reporting, response, and support systems;
- Increase institutional capacity to meet existing federal and state reporting requirements; and
- Reduce or eliminate barriers to reporting for survivors of sexual violence.

Grant Information

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Office of 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 will open at 12:00 AM on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, and close at 11:59 PM on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Eligibility

For the purposes of this grant, "postsecondary institution" shall include postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with authorization to award an associate degree or higher academic degree, as defined in section 2001-J of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended (24 P.S. §20-2001-J)

Only one proposal will be accepted from each postsecondary institution. Applicants may not apply as a consortium.

To accomplish the goals set forth in the Governor's It's On Us PA Grant Program, postsecondary institutions must assess their risk factors and needs, and provide statistical data to support their proposal. This data should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Links or 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 the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education.

Funding requests can include a combination of any of the eligible programs described in this request for application. Funding is not guaranteed to any applicant.

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 compliant 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 that enhances the creation and adoption of curricula, comprehensive prevention strategies, and/or campus-wide training for students, faculty, and staff, including evidence-based awareness or prevention programs that promote healthy relationship skills or programs that reduce social norms and attitudes that contribute or lead to sexual violence.
2. Programs designed to develop, improve, or increase mechanisms for anonymous reporting of sexual violence.
3. Efforts to improve institutional capacity to collect data to meet federal and state reporting requirements.
4. Institutional campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the reporting process, rights of survivors of sexual violence, and resources available.
5. Initiatives that partner with K-12 or advocacy organizations to create, adopt, or enhance curricula or provide programming to increase awareness of sexual assault in both the K-12 and postsecondary settings.
6. Programs to develop or improve structures and the delivery modes used to enhance awareness of available resources, students' rights, or institutional response protocols for supporting students.
7. Initiatives not described above that are aligned to the grant program purpose and the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA campaign, which take into account circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the ever-changing circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, plans may have to change in order to meet the program goals. Applicants selected for funding will notify OPHE in writing of any proposed changes to the programs or activities in the approved application.

Eligible Expenses

Due to the limited amount of funding, only items directly related to eligible programs and activities covered in this request for application will be funded by the It's On Us PA Grant

Program. Grant funds paid to the postsecondary institution may not be used for direct salaries, fringe benefits, or operational rates. All budgets will be reviewed to evaluate appropriateness and connection to proposed grant activities and goals.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a team selected by the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. Applications will be reviewed for:

1. **Alignment** of goals and objectives in the proposal to the goals of the Governor's It's On Us PA Program;
2. **Clarity** of narrative describing programming for which funding will be used, including details of how the proposed program will improve awareness or training, reduce or eliminate barriers to reporting, or improve data collection and reporting capacity;
3. **Improvement** of institutions' efforts to fully understand strengths and barriers within their existing prevention, reporting, and response systems through the development, use, or analysis of campus climate surveys or other data including current data reported for Clery Act compliance;
4. **Correlation** of detailed budget information with the goals and objectives of the proposal;
5. **Viability** of expected outcomes and alignment to program activities;
6. **Adaptability** of the proposal to pandemic and post-pandemic learning environments; and
7. **Accuracy** of the information submitted.

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

Scoring

The following criteria will be evaluated to rank and score applications:

1. Goals and Objectives (10 points) – Goals and objectives of the program are clearly stated.
2. Proposal Narrative (45 points) – The proposal includes a detailed description of the program, fully addressing each component described in number five, Proposal Narrative, of the 2020-21 Governor's It's On Us PA Program Grant Application Form.
3. Budget information (25 points) – Budget information is aligned to the goals of the program, and is accurate and itemized using a per-unit cost and total expenditure. A

total of all expenditures is summarized into three categories: Contracted Services, Supplies and Other.

4. Expected Program Outcomes and Assessment (20 points) – Outcomes are stated in measurable terms including baseline information and expected improvement, and there is a clear plan for assessing the impact of the program being funded through the grant.

Award and Disbursement

Award recipients will be notified in December 2020. All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement with the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. All grant funds must be committed and services performed by May 31, 2022.

The Office of 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 final report on forms supplied by Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. Final reports must be submitted no later than June 30, 2022.

Program Changes

All requests for changes to the approved grant must be submitted to the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education in writing no later than July 31, 2021. Program changes must be approved by Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education or grant will be rescinded.

Technical Assistance

Contact the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education at ra-editsonusp@pa.gov for technical assistance or questions related to the grant application. All substantive questions must be submitted by September 23, 2020. Responses will be provided in the form of an FAQ distributed to all institutions on September 25, 2020.