

CCIP Note #552

Re: Title IV-A Stronger Connections Grant Updates

Date: May 23, 2024

To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Stronger Connections Grant Funding Application Contacts of Traditional Districts, Community Schools, and Independent STEM schools, Nonpublic Principals

Stronger Connections Grant Background

The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) was authorized under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), Public Law 117-159, passed on June 25, 2022. The Department of Education and Workforce (the Department) received an SCG award of \$35,078,494 on Sept. 15, 2022. The SCG is a supplement to the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program.

The Department made a competitive grant application available to eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including public districts and community schools, in the Department's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) e-grants system in March 2023. In total, 747 out of 924 eligible LEAs applied for and received an SCG award. For more information, see [CCIP Note 530](#).

Stronger Connections Grant Fiscal Updates

The Department is providing expenditure reporting flexibility for this one-time grant program. The Stronger Connections Grant will remain in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) within the CCIP system. SCG recipients will only be required to complete a Final Expenditure Report (FER) by the end of the period of performance (September 30, 2026) rather than completing an FER each state fiscal year. The Stronger Connections Grant FER will open July 1, 2026, and is due by September 30, 2026. The Department anticipates that this flexibility will greatly reduce the administrative burden on participating LEAs in the following manner:

- LEAs will not be required to submit an FER at the end of FY24 or FY25. Only one FER will be filed at the end of the grants period of availability in FY26.
- No need to carryover funds and submit applications for the grant in subsequent fiscal years.

Special Note: As of July 1, 2024, LEAs that received a Stronger Connections Grant award will need to select "FY24" from the Fiscal Year dropdown on the CCIP Funding Applications page to access their Stronger Connections Grant application:

Home > Funding

Funding Applications

Chardon Local (047183) - Geauga County - 2024

2024 All Active Applications

2025

2024

2023

2022 ar Differentiated Support Status

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

Year	Funding Application	Revision	Status	Status Date
2016	Competitive Funding Application			
2015	ER	0	Final Approved	12/19/2023
2014	less_round_II	0	Final Approved	12/20/2023
2013	ed	4	Final Approved	5/14/2024
2012	RAINER PROJECT	1	Revision Started	3/23/2024
2011	Child on Track	0	Final Approved	1/8/2024
2010				
2009				
2008				
2007				
2006				
	Competitive Funding Application			
	21st Century	0	Not Started	8/24/2023
	Agriculture Education 5th Quarter	0	Not Started	12/6/2023

If you have questions regarding this flexibility, please contact your Stronger Connections Grant specialist from the CCIP Address Book or email strongerconnections@education.ohio.gov.

Stronger Connections Grant Office Hours

The Department will hold Stronger Connections Grant office hours to share updates, showcase best practices, and answer questions from the field. The Stronger Connections Grant office hours will be held over Microsoft Teams from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday each month. The upcoming office hours will occur on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 17, 2024
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024
- Tuesday, November 19, 2024
- Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- Tuesday, February 18, 2025

You may access the Stronger Connections Grant office hours through this [Microsoft Teams link](#) , or through the [Federal Programs webpage](#).

Additional Reminders

- The Stronger Connections Grant is a one-time emergency grant intended to support student health and safety. The Department does not anticipate receiving additional funding for this grant.
- Stronger Connections Grant funds must be used to supplement, not supplant existing state or local programs. Activities may not supplant activities required by state or local law or that have been funded through state and local funds in the prior year.
- If an in-district nonpublic school closes or no longer wants to participate in the Stronger Connections Grant, the LEA may utilize the remaining amounts for other participating nonpublic schools within the district attendance area. If the funds are not needed by any nonpublic school within the district attendance area, the LEA may use the remaining amount for LEA needs. If this situation occurs, it may be necessary for the LEA to complete a revision to the Stronger Connections Grant application.
- For more information, please access the Stronger Connections Grant resources below or contact your Stronger Connections Grant Specialist from the CCIP Address Book.

Resources

[DEW Stronger Connections Grant Website](#)

[USED Stronger Connections Grant Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Competitive Application Process](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Estimated Award Amounts](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Application Template](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Webinar 1](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant Webinar 2](#)