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Frank Edelblut
Commissioner



Christine M. Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
25 Hall Street
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October 18, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Education (NHED) Division of Learner Support, to accept and expend the Stronger Connections Grant Program funds CFDA #84.424F, in the amount of \$4,833,025 from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) for the Stronger Connections safer and healthier learning environments competitive grant program, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approvals through June 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted as follows:

STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Account: 06-56-56-562010-XXXX0000

Class	Description	FY 2023
Revenue:		
000-400374	Federal Funds	\$4,833,025.00
Expenditures		
	<u>Description</u>	
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$2,732.00
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$4,834.00
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$2,104.00
050-500109	Personal Service Temp	\$26,296.00
060-500601	Benefits	\$12,364.00
072-500577	Grants Federal	\$4,594,695.00
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$190,000.00
	Total	\$ 4,833,025.00

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EXPLANATION

On June 25, 2022, the President signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), as a step toward reducing risk of violence in our schools and communities. Through this legislation, Congress authorized \$1 billion in formula funding under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to State educational agencies (SEAs) to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. Under the BSCA, SEAs must award these funds competitively to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) to fund activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA. Research shows that safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments are associated with improved academic achievement and emotional well-being of students, as well as with reductions in disciplinary actions. Nurturing learning environments can also help students overcome challenging and traumatic experiences and provide a sense of emotional and physical safety. USED is encouraging States to prioritize funds for LEA applicants that demonstrate a commitment to the following:

- 1) Implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies that meet each student's social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being needs; creating positive, inclusive, and supportive school environments; and increasing access to place-based interventions and services.
- (2) Engaging students, families, educators, staff, and community organizations in the selection and implementation of strategies and interventions to create safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.
- (3) Designing and implementing policies and practices that advance equity and are responsive to underserved students, protecting student rights, and demonstrating respect for student dignity and potential.

NHED plans to competitively distribute the grant funds as required by USED. 95% of the funds are required to be distributed directly to qualifying LEAs, 1% of the funds will be used to cover costs to administer the grant, and 4% of the funds will be utilized for state level programming that meets the allowability requirements of the grant and for contracted services to set up the grant management system for administration and distribution of the grant.

These grant funds will allow high need school communities to begin or continue building programs utilizing evidence-based services and practices to support student emotional, social, physical, and academic well-being. Determination of high-need LEAs will be based on community economic instability, substance misuse rate, disciplinary referrals of students and suspension rates, graduation rates, student to mental health professional ratio and juvenile justice referral rates. This will prioritize funding to support communities demonstrating the greatest, immediate need for services.

The projects stated above will vastly improve the state's ability to implement and continue supports for student wellness and safety, the Department is seeking the authorization to accept and expend these funds already available to NHED to ensure that these crucial programs are able to continue to benefit New Hampshire's schools and students.

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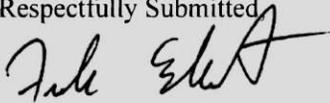
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The following appropriation activities are being requested:

Class	Class Description	Explanation
040-500800	Indirect Costs	Appropriation needed for required indirect costs allocation
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	Appropriation needed for required audit fund set aside expense
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	Appropriation to support post retirement costs for existing staff
050-500109	Personal Service Temp	Appropriation needed for salary cost allocations for existing staff
060-500601	Benefits	Appropriation needed for benefits associated with salary allocations
072-500577	Grants Federal	Appropriation to provide funding to school districts or educational institutions for educational programs
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	Appropriation needed for contracts to support program needs

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully Submitted



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education

**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

S424F220030

GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

1 RECIPIENT NAME New Hampshire Department of Education 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 - 3860	2 AWARD INFORMATION PR/AWARD NUMBER S424F220030 ACTION NUMBER 1 ACTION TYPE New AWARD TYPE Formula																				
3 PROJECT STAFF RECIPIENT STATE DIRECTOR Ashley Frame (603) 271-6579 ashley.frame@doe.nh.gov EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT Ivonne I Jaime (202) 260-1519 ivonne.jaime@ed.gov EDUCATION PAYMENT HOTLINE G5 PAYEE HELPDESK 888-336-8930 obsed@servicenowservices.com	4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 84.424F Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Program																				
5 KEY PERSONNEL N/A																					
6 AWARD PERIODS BUDGET PERIOD 09/15/2022 - 09/30/2025 FEDERAL FUNDING PERIOD 09/15/2022 - 09/30/2025 FUTURE BUDGET PERIODS N/A																					
7 AUTHORIZED FUNDING CURRENT AWARD AMOUNT \$4,833,025.00 PREVIOUS CUMULATIVE AMOUNT \$0.00 CUMULATIVE AMOUNT \$4,833,025.00																					
8 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION UEI/SSN YUC4D2DQS6E1 REGULATIONS EDGAR AS APPLICABLE 2 CFR AS APPLICABLE ATTACHMENTS 3 , 8 , 9 , 11 , 12 , 13 , 14 , BSCA SCG , GE3 , GE4 , GE5																					
9 LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL DATA AUTHORITY: PL PL 117-159 BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT TITLE II SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (JUNE 25, 2022) BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT (BSCA) PROGRAM TITLE: STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (SSAE) PROGRAM CFDA/SUBPROGRAM NO: 84.424F <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FUND CODE</th> <th>FUNDING YEAR</th> <th>AWARD YEAR</th> <th>ORG. CODE</th> <th>CATEGORY</th> <th>LIMITATION</th> <th>ACTIVITY</th> <th>CFDA</th> <th>OBJECT CLASS</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1000L</td> <td>2022</td> <td>2022</td> <td>ES000000</td> <td>B</td> <td>QLA</td> <td>000</td> <td>424</td> <td>4101A</td> <td>\$4,833,025.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		FUND CODE	FUNDING YEAR	AWARD YEAR	ORG. CODE	CATEGORY	LIMITATION	ACTIVITY	CFDA	OBJECT CLASS	AMOUNT	1000L	2022	2022	ES000000	B	QLA	000	424	4101A	\$4,833,025.00
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US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

S424F220030

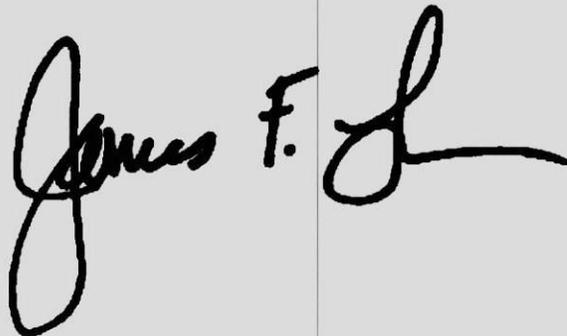
GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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PR/AWARD NUMBER: S424F220030
RECIPIENT NAME: New Hampshire Department of Education

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- (1) The Office of Management and Budget requires all Federal agencies to assign a Federal Award Identifying Number (FAIN) to each of their financial assistance awards. The PR/AWARD NUMBER identified in Block 2 is your FAIN. If subawards are permitted under this grant, and you choose to make subawards, you must document the assigned PR/AWARD NUMBER (FAIN) identified in Block 2 of this Grant Award Notification on each subaward made under this grant. The term subaward means:
 1. A legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient. (See 2 CFR 200.331(a))
 2. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (The payments received for goods or services provided as a contractor are not Federal awards, see 2 CFR 200.501(f) of the OMB Uniform Guidance: "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards").
 3. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract. (See 2 CFR 200.1)
- (2) The negotiated indirect cost rate or the indirect cost allocation plan approved for the entity identified in Block 1 of this GAN applies to this grant award.



James F Lane
Acting Assistant Secretary

09/15/2022

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL

DATE