

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)
FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grants – Q&A Tracker

Funding Announcement: FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program

This guide will provide an overview of Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program solicitation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through June 29, 2021.

Monday 5/24/2021

Eligible Applicants

Question #1: What municipalities are eligible to apply?

Answer #1: All local units of government are eligible to apply and priority consideration will be given to those with the highest rates of gun violence within Pennsylvania. (Note: Entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence focused projects are not eligible to apply under this solicitation.)

Question #2: I am in receipt of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grants announcement and saw that “local units of government” are considered eligible applicants. Would my employer, the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department, be permitted to submit its own application as a unique unit of government or would it have to submit its application through a larger unit of the judicial branch (the First Judicial District) or the local government (City of Philadelphia)?

Answer #2: Under PCCD’s guidelines, “local units of government” are considered to be the county or municipality, and therefore the county or municipality is always the applicant; a county/municipality department receiving the funds can be listed as a recipient agency. (Please note that entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence focused projects are not eligible to apply for funds under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program solicitation.)

Question #3: Are local law enforcement agencies (e.g., police departments) eligible to apply?

Answer #3: Only nonprofit organizations and local units of government are eligible to apply for funding. However, a local law enforcement agency can be listed as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant.

Informational Webinars for Prospective Applicants

Question #4: What is the link to register for the Philadelphia informational webinar?

Answer #4: You can sign up for the informational webinar using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7S77RT3>. There’s an option to select which webinar/date you would like to register for in the survey form.

Tuesday 5/25/2021

Eligible Activities

Question #5: Firearms are the means used in most of the suicides in Pennsylvania. These deaths are generally characterized as cause by gun violence. Can this funding be used to reduce firearms suicides?

Answer #5: Firearm suicide is an important issue, and eligible applicants can request funding to support those efforts; however, the primary focus of this grant program is on community/interpersonal gun violence prevention. Under the solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of effective and/or promising programs to reduce the number and impacts of shootings, homicides, and/or firearm-related crime on community members. A number of eligible activities and approaches are described on page 2-3 of the FY 2021 PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grants Summary document available on PCCD's website here:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>.

Wednesday 6/2/2021

Eligible Applicants

Question #6: What are the PCCD grant programs in which previous funding renders a nonprofit ineligible?

Answer #6: Entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-related projects are not eligible to apply for funds under this solicitation. (Note: A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Question #7: Do school districts qualify as local units of government?

Response #7: Under PCCD's guidelines, "local units of government" are considered to be counties or municipalities. A school district receiving these funds can be listed as a recipient agency.

Question #8: Can a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that received the Targeted Community Investment Grant through the Office of Violence Prevention apply?

Response #8: Yes. The only grants that would disqualify an entity from requesting funding through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program are PCCD's FY 2018/FY 2019 Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding and/or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-related projects.

Question #9: We are a sports based youth sports development organization. We launched a program in September 2020 that is designed for young men ages 15 to 18, the majority of whom have been arrested for lower-level offenses, such as the beginning of an early criminal history or a set of negative risk behaviors, and want to positively redirect their lives. Would we be eligible?

Response #9: Nonprofit organizations (legally established with an employer identification number) and local units of government are eligible to apply for funds through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. Additional questions regarding specific organization's eligibility criteria should be directed to PCCD staff via email at RA-PCCD_ExecutiveOfc@pa.gov.

Question #10: Are courts eligible to apply?

Response #10: Counties and municipalities are eligible to apply as local units of government for funding; courts receiving funds can be listed as recipient agencies within an application submitted by the county.

Question #11: If your specific area in Philadelphia is not listed in the SurveyMonkey form, can you apply for the grant?

Response #11: Yes. The list of neighborhoods provided in the initial funding request form (Survey Monkey) is not exhaustive, but meant to identify areas within the City of Philadelphia with the highest rates of gun violence. If your organization is proposing activities that will take place in a neighborhood/area not listed in the dropdown menu, please indicate the neighborhood(s)/area(s) where proposed project activities would take place using the open text comment box.

Question #12: If your organization does not have a 501(c)(3) status but we are partnered with an organization recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, would we be eligible to apply as a nonprofit organization?

Response #12: A nonprofit organization must be legally organized (e.g., has an employer identification number) in order to apply for funds through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. Other organizations receiving funds can be listed as recipient agencies within an application submitted by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Question #13: Are private religious schools, which are also 501(c)(3)s, eligible to apply?

Response #13: Any legally organized nonprofit organization is eligible to apply under this funding opportunity.

Question #14: Our organization received a 2019 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Program grant. In the webinar, it was stated that such a grant in 2020 would make us ineligible for FY21 funding. I just wanted to confirm that with the 2019 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Program grant, we are eligible for FY 21 funding.

Response #14: According to our funding guidelines, only entities that have received FY 2018/2019 Gun Violence Reduction Grants and/or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grants (specifically for gun violence-related projects). Since your organization did not receive a grant under either of those funding opportunities, you would be eligible to apply for FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funding.

Question #15: Based on the response that Courts would have to apply via the County Commissioners Office, in Philadelphia, would that be the Mayor's Office?

Response #15: For Philadelphia specifically, all grant applications are applied for by the City of Philadelphia (Philadelphia City Treasurer in Egrants). The courts could be listed as a recipient agency, but the actual applicant would be the City, not the courts. (Note: Entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-related projects are not eligible to apply for funds under this solicitation. A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Eligible Activities

Question #16: Is an organization able to apply for virtual programming?

Response #16: Eligible applicants can request funding to support activities and approaches aligned with the goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. Applicants should utilize the initial request form (Survey Monkey) to describe their proposed project activities and the approach they will utilize if awarded funding.

Question #17: I am wondering if we are eligible to apply for the specific program that we have. We technically do not fit any of the groups listed (safe passages, trauma-informed, etc.).

Response #17: The FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program summary document identifies several specific activities and approaches funding may support (page 2), as well as "Other violence prevention, intervention, and/or response strategies that demonstrate promise in meeting the goals of this program." Applicants should utilize the initial request form (Survey Monkey) to describe their proposed project activities and the approach they will utilize if awarded funding.

Number of Applications Per Applicant

Question #18: Can you apply for more than one program? Under the same 501(c)(3)? We offer therapy, art classes, and STEM programs.

Response #18: Eligible applicants can only submit one request each under this Funding Announcement.

Tuesday 6/8/2021

Eligible Applicants

Question #19: Should eligible applicants have not ever received PCCD funding at all previously?

Response #19: No. Only entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-related projects are not eligible to apply for funds under this solicitation. (Note: A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Question #20: A partner agency "sub-granted" a portion of their awarded 2020 Gun Violence grant funds to our agency. We were not the lead applicant. Are we eligible to be lead applicant this time?

Response #20: Yes. Only entities that were directly awarded PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding and/or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-related projects are not eligible to apply for funds under this solicitation. (Note: A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Question #21: Coming from an agency outside of Philadelphia, is their specific threshold of gun violence related incidents to be considered for the grant funding?

Response #21: All eligible applicants (nonprofit organizations and local units of government) are eligible to apply for funding through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program, regardless of where they are located. Priority consideration will be given to those with the highest rates of gun violence within Pennsylvania. PCCD staff will utilize UCR data, among other available data sources, to determine which applications serve areas with high rates of gun violence. Applicants are also encouraged to provide information and data regarding the impact of gun violence on their community and local crime trends within their initial funding request form responses.

(Note: Entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence focused projects are not eligible to apply under this solicitation. A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Question #22: Is there any way to determine if we are in an area that has "the highest rates of shootings and homicides", prior to the Initial Funding request due 6/30/21? Or is the purpose of the Initial Funding request to determine whether the applicant would serve an eligible area? As a prosecutor's office, it appears we are an eligible agency, but I am wondering if there's a way to find out if we are in an eligible area of Pennsylvania.

Response #22: All eligible applicants (nonprofit organizations and local units of government) are eligible to apply for funding through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program, regardless of where they are located. Priority consideration will be given to those with the highest rates of gun violence within Pennsylvania. PCCD staff will utilize UCR data, among other available data sources, to determine which applications serve areas with high rates of gun violence. Applicants are also encouraged to provide information and data regarding the impact of gun violence on their community and local crime trends within their initial funding request form responses.

(Note: Entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence focused projects are not eligible to apply under this solicitation. A summary of projects funded through these grant programs is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Question #23: If we have 2020 Community Violence and Prevention and Reduction Funding, are we not eligible to apply for FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds?

Response #23: Only entities that received 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence-specific projects are ineligible to apply for FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds. (Note: A summary of these projects is available on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage [here](#).)

Eligible Activities

Question #24: Would the establishment of a new CTC community be seen as an "immediate impact" towards gun safety?

Response #24: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. Under the solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of effective and/or promising programs to reduce the number and impacts of shootings, homicides, and/or firearm-related crime on community members. A number of eligible activities and approaches are described on page 2-3 of the FY 2021 PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grants Summary document available on PCCD's website here: <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>.

Eligible applicants should describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program within the initial funding request form.

Question #25: Does grant pay for gun buy-back program and cameras??

Response #25: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. Under the solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of effective and/or promising programs to reduce the number and impacts of shootings, homicides, and/or firearm-related crime on community members. A number of eligible activities and approaches, including allowable and unallowable expenses, are described on page 2-3 of the FY 2021 PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grants Summary document available on PCCD's website here: <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>.

Eligible applicants should describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program within the initial funding request form.

Question #26: Will grant pay for police overtime for more patrols in troubled areas??

Response #26: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. Under the solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of effective and/or promising programs to reduce the number and impacts of shootings, homicides, and/or firearm-related crime on community members. A number of eligible activities and approaches, including allowable and unallowable expenses, are described on page 2-3 of the FY 2021 PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grants Summary document available on PCCD's website here: <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>.

Eligible applicants should describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program within the initial funding request form.

Question #27: Does grant funding pay for crime prevention seminars?

Response #27: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. Under the solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of effective and/or promising programs to reduce the number and impacts of shootings, homicides, and/or firearm-related crime on community members. A number of eligible activities and approaches, including allowable and unallowable expenses, are described on page 2-3 of the FY 2021 PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grants Summary document available on PCCD's website here:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>.

Eligible applicants should describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program within the initial funding request form.

Application Resources

Question #28: Does PCCD have recommendations on what sources we should use for jurisdiction level and state comparisons for gun violence data?

Response #28: The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) publishes Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data on their public-facing "[Crime in Pennsylvania Dashboard](#)." In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has published an interactive "[Violence Dashboard](#)" designed to display aggregate statistics for hospital discharge reasons and causes of death in Pennsylvania. Additional data may be available through local level data sources, such as city or municipality departments, local law enforcement agencies, public health agencies and/or healthcare organizations, and other entities.

Question #29: Are the Survey Monkey questions available to prepare in advance of submission?

Response #29: Yes. A summary of the questions including in the online request form (Survey Monkey) is available in the "[FY21 Gun Violence Reduction Grants SurveyMonkey Form Questions](#)" [reference document](#) published on PCCD's *Gun Violence* webpage.

Application Submission Process

Question #30: We submitted our survey/initial request form before viewing the informational webinar. Would it be possible to get a copy of our submitted survey? And is it possible for us to resubmit our application survey as we might want to modify, given what was presented at the webinar?

Response #30: PCCD staff cannot provide a copy of previously submitted applications to applicants. Only one application may be submitted per applicant under this solicitation. If more than one application is submitted by an applicant, PCCD will consider the most recently submitted application as the final submission for purposes of its review. Applicants should email PCCD staff directly at RA-PCCD_ExecutiveOfc@pa.gov with your organization's name so your applications can be flagged appropriately.

Monday 6/21/2021

Application Submission Process

Question #31: I applied for a grant and I'm trying to see if it went through and what are the next steps.

Response #31: PCCD staff will review initial request forms submitted in SurveyMonkey and identify projects to move forward in July. Applicants selected in the initial round of requests will be contacted and asked to complete a formal application in Egrants. More information about the initial funding request form and next steps is available in the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Program Funding Announcement Summary document here:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Documents/FY%202021%20PCCD%20Gun%20Violence%20Reduction%20Grants%20Summary.pdf>

Eligible Activities

Question #32: Can volunteers be paid a stipend and not be independent contractors or employees and our nonprofit can still be eligible for the grant?

Response #32: Payment in the form of stipends is considered an allowable expenses for purposes of this grant program. However, we encourage you to review appropriate labor guidelines to determine if the payment of a stipend would be appropriate in your situation. Should your initial request be accepted, PCCD would need to review your situation in more detail to be able to provide additional guidance.

Budget

Question #33: The budget amount that we are using is based in what our agency needs to operate or how much it would be for the execution of the programming as related to the grant?

Response #33: Proposed budgets for initial funding requests should reflect the amount of funding needed only to support proposed project activities.

Eligible Applicants

Question #34: My company is not a non-profit and we are not a government agency eligible for application submission who is seeking partnership and ways to be able to participate in the program. If we partner with a nonprofit organization to deliver our proposed program strategy, would the nonprofit organization be eligible as the entity applying for consideration?

Response #34: Under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program [funding guidelines](#), only nonprofit organizations and local units of government are eligible to apply for funding. PCCD has previously responded to a similar question regarding applicant eligibility on its Funding Q&A webpage [here](#):

Question: If your organization does not have a 501(c)(3) status but we are partnered with an organization recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, would we be eligible to apply as a nonprofit organization?

Answer: A nonprofit organization must be legally organized (e.g., has an employer identification number) in order to apply for funds through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. Other organizations receiving funds can be listed as recipient agencies within an application submitted by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Question #35: Would a pilot program that is currently not funded be eligible for application submission by a city transportation department to PCCD for project grant funding?

Response #35: Under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program [funding guidelines](#), only nonprofit organizations and local units of government are eligible to apply for funding. Under PCCD's guidelines, "local units of government" are considered to be the county or municipality, and therefore the county or municipality is always the applicant; a county/municipality department receiving the funds can be listed as a recipient agency. (Please note that entities that have previously received PCCD Gun Violence Reduction Grant funding or FY 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grant funding for gun violence focused projects are not eligible to apply for funds under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program solicitation. A list of entities currently receiving these funds is available on PCCD's website [here](#).)

Application Process

Question #36: Many questions on the Survey Monkey form to be completed indicate a maximum of "500 characters". Can you please clarify/specify, is that 500 characters INCLUDING spaces or simply 500 characters? As we are drafting our responses initially in MS Word that enables us either option, we want to be sure we maximize this opportunity while still complying with requirements.

Response #36: It includes all characters which includes spaces as well.

Tuesday 6/29/2021

Eligible Applicants

Question #37: I am looking to start an LLC, which will provide assistance to communities dealing with our gun violence epidemic. I would like to know if this program is only for established organization or can someone starting out also apply for this grant, to help get up and running?

Answer #37: Under the funding guidelines for this grant program, only nonprofit organizations or local units of government may apply for funds. A nonprofit organization must be legally organized (e.g., has an employer identification number) in order to apply for funds through the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. Other organizations receiving funds can be listed as recipient agencies within an application submitted by an eligible applicant.

Application Process

Question #38: Who should letters of support for the 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grants be addressed to?

Answer #38: Letters of support can be addressed to the agency's Executive Director:

Michael Pennington
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
3101 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Question #39: What is the time cut-off for the online initial request form in Survey Monkey on June 30, 2021?

Answer #39: The survey form will close at 11:59 PM on June 30, 2021.