

RECRUITMENT NOTICE – Peer Reviewers for Grant Applications Needed

PROGRAM: *Stronger Connections Grant*

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Grants Program Administration Office seeks qualified individuals to review applications to help ensure that the investment of state and federal funds, in accordance with authorizing legislation, supports high-quality, evidence-based programs and student services; sustainable program development; and the achievement of intended outcomes.

Program Purpose

The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG), authorized through the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(BSCA\)](#), provides funding for local education agencies (LEAs) to implement activities that are allowable under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to support safer communities and healthier outcomes for students. Approximately \$8.8 million is available to eligible LEAs. More information about this grant is available on [CDE's Stronger Connections website](#).

Desired Areas of Expertise

It is preferred that reviewers have knowledge/experience in the area(s) of school-based mental health services, substance abuse prevention/education, referral care coordination, counseling, and/or other activities allowable under Title IV, Part A. Reviewers may also have experience with grant management, grant application writing, or grant application review.

Expectations of Reviewers

- Each reviewer will receive a link to an online folder containing reviewer guidance, a copy of the Request for Applications (RFA), assigned applications, budget worksheets, and the scoring rubric.
- Reviewers will read and assess their assigned applications individually and then collaborate with their team members to determine a consensus score and feedback for each assigned application. CDE staff will review team scores and feedback and contact readers within a week if any clarification is needed.
- The review process can take up to **approximately 10-12 hours of active time to complete, including the team collaboration**. The time commitment can vary depending on simplicity or complexity of individual applications and the length of each review team's discussion.
- Honorarium payment is not available.

Conflicts of Interest

If you are unsure if a conflict of interest will preclude your participation, please let us know and we can help determine whether you are still eligible to participate, whether that means recusing yourself from certain applications, regions, etc. Interested parties may be ineligible to serve as a reviewer if they:

- Have assisted in the preparation of an application in this competition or are employed by an eligible applicant that intends to apply or has already applied for this *current* competition.
- Have agreed to serve as an employee or consultant, agreed to otherwise provide assistance or advice to an applicant, or have been offered an opportunity to do so and have not yet accepted or declined, based on whether a grant is awarded.
- Have a personal financial interest affected by the outcome of this grant competition.

How to Make Your Interest Known

If you are available and interested in participating in this review process, please complete a [short interest form](#) regarding your experience and availability as soon as possible but no later than **Wednesday, June 7, 2023**. This is the first step in the process to select reviewers. Responding with your availability does not guarantee your participation. Responses after the deadline will be considered for reviewer alternates, should the need arise.

Confirmation of Reviewers

Reviewers are selected based on their relevant qualifications and the number of grant applications received. Those selected will be contacted with additional information no later than **Thursday, June 15, 2023**.

Tell a Friend or Colleague!

If you know someone with the appropriate qualifications who would be interested in this review opportunity, you are encouraged to share this flyer with them. An increased number of readers leads to a lighter workload for all reviewers!

COMMITMENT TIMELINE

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Readers receive review materials

Participants review approximately 4-6 applications.

Thursday, June 15 – Monday, July 10, 2023

Individual and Team Reviews

Monday, July 10, 2023

Scores due to CDE by 12 pm

Team consensus scores and feedback for each assigned application are due to CDE. CDE staff will review team feedback and contact readers within the following week if any clarification is needed.